Latest scores and leaders **PAGES 26, 27**

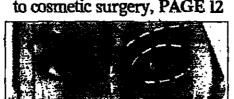
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Nigella W 1507 says theho cure for a PAG



The cutting edge of beauty

Dr Thomas Stuttaford's guide to cosmetic surgery, PAGE 12



Ambridge

Suffering the rural idyl

KIIMES

Moss Side

Libby Purves finds beauty and misery on the same road PI4

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Black Watch solutors 'swore oaths to Hong Kong triads'

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

BRITISH troops from the Black Watch regiment said to have sworn a blood oath of allegiance to a Chinese secret society are to get immunity from prosecution in Hong Kong in exchange for information on Triad crime gangs.

Soldiers from the regiment, which will guard the colony in the final months of British rule here, to have sworn loyalty and silence

to join the Sun Yee On Triad, one

of the biggest and most ruthless of the illegal Chinese secret societies. Triad membership is a criminal offence in Hong Kong. But at least a dozen sodiers went through the full initiation ceremony after they began moonlighting as bouncers in bars and nightclubs controlled by the gangs, the newspaper said. It said the Hong Kong police agreed not to prosecute in exchange for information.

The soldiers returned to Britain when the Black Watch finished its

last tour of duty in August 1994, and are not believed to have continued their involvement with the Chinese underworld in the UK. The regiment will go back to Hong Kong in February 1997. Neither the British garrison nor

the Hong Kong police were last night able to confirm or deny the report, which caused surprise and embarrassment in military circles. The British forces here have built up a remarkably good reputation The report will also embarrass

the Hong Kong Administration, which is trying to project an image of clean government before the

change of sovereignty.

The newspaper said the men were approached by the Sun Yee On while they were drinking in the seedy Wanshai bar area and offered another to great police. offered work. It quoted police sources as saying the club's usual security men had trouble dealing with foreign servicemen, especial ly the American and Australian navy. Chinese bouncers were tough enough to deal with all

was easier to find bouncers who could deal with them in English. It is not clear how the police discovered the soldiers involvement or traced them in the UK, but the report said at least three had been brought back in the course of last year to give statements. They were given a guarantee they would not be prosecuted for Triad

Military sources expressed some scepticism yesterday about what use such evidence would be to the

comers but the Triads thought it Hong Kong police, with its long was easier to find bouncers who experience of Triads. They also said the garrison would normally he contacted if soldiers were brought back to Hong Kong. The source also suggested that it would have been hard for British squaddies to work as bouncers without attracting the attention of

the military police. A garrison spokesman said that HQ British Forces Hong Kong had no knowledge of any British ceman being brought back to Hong Kong in connection with

categorical denial."

One senior officer who served in Hong Kong while the Black Watch was on tour there said it would be impossible for a British soldier to 'moonlight" in a bar as a bouncer without the garrison hearing about it. He had "no knowledge"

of the report. The regiment is on Christmas leave and a spokesman at the Pirbright Barracks guardroom said no one was available to answer questions.

Tories trade insults over defection

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY party infighting esca-lated yesterday as leading figures from the Right and Left traded insults in the wake of Emma Nicholson's defection to the Liberal Democrats. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, accused Miss Nicholson of talking "awful nonsense" in claiming that her departure had been precipitat-

ed by a lurch to the Right. He also fanned internal tensions by hinting that other centre-left Tories might be better off following the MP for Devon West and Torridge if, like her, they wanted a federal

But the Defence Secretary's remarks in a BBC radio interview provoked a fierce riposte from the centre-left. Peter Temple-Morris, one of its backbench leaders, deplored the Tory high command's decision to field a Cabinet minister whose "xenophobic and nationalistic" rhetoric symbolised the pressures that had driven Miss Nicholson to join Paddy Ashdown's party. Mr Temple-Morris,

chairman of the Macleod group of centre-left Tory backbenchers, also suggested that John Major bore some of the blame for the turmoil engulf-ing his Government. "My unhappiness is that there is a sense of drift, and I would like that to be as far as possible rectified," the MP for Leomin-

John Redwood, who last summer resigned from the Cabinet to stand against Mr Major, echoed Mr Portillo's insistence that under Mr Major's "moderate" leadership the charge of extremism lev-elled by Miss Nicholson did not stand up.

But Mr Redwood, in his most inflammatory intervention since losing to Mr Major in July, used his freedom as a backbencher to say what Mr Portillo could only imply: that far from being too right wing, the Conservatives were not right wing enough.
The Cabinet formed by Mr

Major in the summer was the "most left-wing Cabinet a Conservative Prime Minister

THE Home Secretary is on a

collision course with the legal

profession and judiciary over

his plans for minimum sen-

tences to be outlined in a

In an interview with The

Times, David Penry-Davey.

QC, the new Bar chairman,

launched a blistering attack

on the Government's sentenc-

ing policies and expressed

"grave concern" over the plans

The attack came as the

Government made clear its

intention to "make Britain the

Singapore of Europe" with

harsh sentences aimed at curbing re-offending. Minis-

ters are considering introduc-

ing an automatic sentence of

dealers convicted for a second

time and a minimum sentence

east ten years' jail for drug

that are being prepared by

Michael Howard.

White Paper this spring.

had chosen in living memory and one that continued to resist the Right's diagnosis of the Government's political ills. Mr Redwood said.

"I am very conscious that we are still well behind in the opinion polls. The Government has not got rid of VAT on fuel, has not restored mortgage interest relief, has not done something to help with negative equity," Mr Redwood said on BBC Radio 4's The World at One.

The former Welsh Secretary called for policies to boost house prices, curb the fear of redundancy and reduce the tax burden on families.

Mr Redwood also attacked the continuing loss of powers to Brussels. "I don't think if you look at the deeds of this mer of 1995, you can say it's more Euro-sceptic than Margaret Thatcher's administrations in the 1980s. It is very reluctant to be isolated and dig Continued on page 2, col 8

Leading article, page 15

Bar chairman denounces

Howard's sentencing plan

Penry-Davey: attack

on get-tough policy

of between five and ten years

for people convicted again of

The Home Secretary's

tough sentences for a repeat

offence by rapists, serious sex

offenders and violent crimi-

carrying an illegal firearm.

Police fear for woman missing in **Thailand**

BRITONS returning from Thailand are being urged to contact police if they have any information about Johanne Masheder, a young solicitor, who has disappeared while on a back-packing holiday. Inspector Bob Bates of Cheshire Police, who are working with Interpol in the search for her, asked travel-lers to try to provide even the tiniest detail of her movements after December 8.

that other holidaymakers will have seen this girl and could have vital information about her whereabouts. Jo is very tall and we are hoping someone will remember seeing her. We are extremely concerned for her well-being. The parents of the 23-year old law graduate will today scour the tiny Thai hippy island of Ko Phangnan. But Mr Stuart Masheder, a business manager from Wincle, near Macclesfield, said last

He said: "We are certain

night that he could rely only His search switched to Ko Phangnan as it is a haunt age travellers, thousands of whom make the monthly trip for "full moon parties". He said that his daughter was level-headed and unlikely to "drop out".

The parents' search, page 3



Joanne Masheder who has disappeared while on a back-packing holiday

Saudi king hands over power to half-brother

By MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KING FAHD of Saudi Arabia yesterday handed over the running of his country to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, saying that he needed to rest after suffering a

stroke in November. A royal decree said the king. 73, who is overweight and has been in poor health for some years, has asked Prince Abdullah to "undertake the affairs of state while we enjoy rest". Although King Fahd has not abdicated, Western diplomats saw the move as a possible way of smoothing the

transition. The move scotches recent rumours of dynastic turmoil and suggestions that the king was seeking to bypass his nominated successor and hand over the throne to Prince Sultan, the Defence Minister, and a full brother. Prince Abdullah, 71, is depu-

ry Prime Minister and head of the powerful 77,000-strong National Guard. An austere and devout man, he is thought by diplomats to want to distance his country more from the West and to take a harder line towards the Middle East peace process, especially on the future of Jerusalem.

The House of Saud, page 8 Leading article, page 15

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New owners for New Look

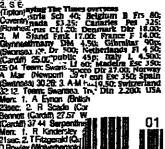
Tom Singh and his family have sold, New Look, one of the largest retailers of wom-en's clothing, to institutional investors for £170 million. The sale comes one month after plans were abandoned to float the chain, which has 305 outlets in the UK. The Singhs will own 25 per cent of a new company set up to own New

Liverpool come from behind

Stan Collymore scored against his former club. Nottingham Forest, as Liverpool turned a two-goal deficit into a 4-2 victory in the FA Carling Premiership yesterday. Middlesbrough were beaten 2-0 by Aston VillaPages 19, 22, 23

Internet Times

The Internet edition of The Times is now available on http://www.the-times.co.uk



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PORTSMOUTH: F

Women: 1, K Newn Colendge), 2, C Over (N (SI Alberro Striders). RADIO.

LETTERS.....15 OBITUARIES17 LIBBY PURVES

ments, from eight in 1994 - the year of her self-imposed purdah -- to 65 last year. Princess Margaret had eight engagements overseas in 1995 with seven the previous year but the other 12 royals all cut theirs. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh

By Frances Gibb and Richard Ford nals are expected to form the centrepiece of a crime Bill to be introduced in the next session of Parliament in November. Mr Penry-Davey, 53, who took over as head of the 12,500strong barristers' profession yesterday, gave a warning that minimum sentences would destroy the Government's own incentives to get

criminals to plead guilty.
He was also scathing of Mr Howard's method of formulating policy "by announcement to the Tory party conference" and implementation in "hastily drafted legislation".

Echoing the concerns of senior judges, he said the Bar had been subject to "Criminal Justice Acts raining down on us like confetti" and "swings in sentencing policy", forcing courts to move from one extreme to the other.

Burst pipes add to seasonal misery

By Adrian Lee

MILLIONS of homes across Britain were without water yesterday as the new year thaw revealed burst pipes and mains. Scotland and the Northeast, which had record low temperatures during the holiday week, were worst hit.

People were asked to conserve supplies as engineers worked to repair the burst mains. Shortages were compounded by taps left running to prevent pipes freezing.
A North East Water spokes-

man said: "We are asking people to take a quick shower instead of a bath, and if at all possible to cut the amount of water used in household duties like washing up."

The London Weather Centre predicted a spell of milder weather with temperatures up to 10C by the middle In Scotland, where tempera-

the thaw hit many areas including Glasgow, where water tanks fractured in four high-rise blocks of flats in the Gorbals. In Strathclyde alone an estimated 500,000 homes suffered burst pipes over the holiday

tures had fallen to minus 15C

In the Thames Water region thousands of homes were affected by burst mains.

In Northern Ireland more than 100,000 homes were left without water as rationing was introduced. One in five homes was affected by cuts of up to 12 hours at a time.

In Cambridge, firemen saved thousands of irreplaceable medieval books and documents as water poured into Gonville and Caius College library block from a burst

Forecast, page 18

Royal Family cuts foreign trips for work in Britain than 1,500 engagements in Britain in

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE busiest members of the Royal Family reduced their overseas visits by a third last year and devoted more of their time to work in Britain.

The Queen and her family appear to be demonstrating that they can give good value for money at home despite the upheavals in the Prince and Princess of Wales' marriage. The 14 most senior royals reduced their engagements on offical overseas tours, and Prince Charles carried out more

as listed in the Court Circular of The Times, from more than L500 in 1994 to Only the Princess of Wales signifi-

cantly increased her overseas engage-

1995, more than a quarter up from the previous year. Their overseas engagements were down from 698 to 462. The Oneen had 543 engagements in Britain last year compared with 486 in

1994. The Duke of Edinburgh had 401 domestic engagements in 1995, up from 303 the previous year, and the Prince of Wales 471, compared with 375. The Princess Royal, the busiest member of the family in 1994, was less pressed last year with 427 appoint-

ments in Britain and 148 abroad. The Princess of Wales carried out 62 engagements in this country, with 34 in the previous year. The Queen Mother, who had a hip replaced in November, carried out 42 engagements compared with 63 in 1994.

A spokeswoman for Buckingh Palace said the VE-Day and VJ-Day events might have made some royals less available for foreign visits.

SPORT.....19-28 BODY AND MIND.....12

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ARTS10, 11

CHESS & BRIDGE..

COURT & SOCIAL

Tories

Continued from page 1 in, in defence of British inter-

likened to the rhetorical excesses of Nazi Germany.

played a part in her defection.

He accused Miss Nicholson

of having a "history of disloy-

alty" in supporting Baroness

Thatcher day after day, then stabbing her in the back" on

the eve of the 1990 leadership

contest. But he also inflamed

divisions by suggesting there

was no place for Europhiles inside the party.
"She [Miss Nicholson] has

now joined the Liberal Delno-

crats, who are a Euro-federalist party. They want a United

States of Europe and the

Conservative Party is the par-

ty that is dedicated to opposing federalism. If that is what

Emma believes, then she is

The counteroffensive by the

Right reflected the belief

among its supporters that the

Prime Minister would be

forced to moderate his ap-

proach to avoid provoking

more walk-outs by dissidents.

One senior figure said: "My belief is that going in Emma Nicholson's direction on Europe would be the last

straw in terms of alienating

the public. But she does have a

point with her Alice in Won-

derland 'Will we, won't we'

criticism. This is the funda-

mental weakness of the Gov-

ernment - we cannot give a

Mr Temple-Morris cited

clear lead over Europe.

right to leave us."

ests the way that she did." hit back at Miss Nicholson's claim that his Brussels-bashing speech at the Tory conference, which she has since

Fears persist that dwindling Conservative majority will affect peace talks

Unionists get no deals for backing Major

BY ANDREW PIERCE

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW. the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday told the Ulster Unionists not to expect any secret deals in return for their promise not to bring down the Government.

However, this has failed to allay fears in Dublin and at Westminster that the Unionists might be looked on more favourably by the Governsettlement in Northern Ire-

There was speculation last night that the Government would approve Unionist proposals for an elected convention in Northern Ireland. The proposals have been given a cool reception in Dublin.

Emma Nicholson's defection to the Liberal Democrats has made the support of the nine Ulster Unionist MPs crucial to the Government's survival. At the weekend they pledged not to vote with Labour in a no-confidence

Sir Patrick, in a BBC interview, said that the Government had always listened to the Ulster Unionists, who represented the largest number of people in Northern Ireland. But the Government will do its duty according to what it considers to be right. I recognise no difference in the sential equation by reason of events in the last few days or even a longer period."

Pressure on the Govern-ment intensified when Cardinal Cahal Daly, the leader of Ireland's Roman Catholics. said it would be "most unfortunate" if the Tories' shrinking majority at Westminster held up progress for a peace-

The Cardinal, speaking at a mass for World Peace Day in his Armagh archdiocese, said: "It may well be politically difficult for John Major to initiate significant political movement in Northern Ire-

away the framework of laws

protecting workers against re-

dundancy and unfair dismiss-

al. They believe that employ-

ment protection legislation

feres with the free operation of

the labour market, destroying

jobs and holding back the

The radical proposals, which will be bitterly contest-

ed by Labour, are to be

published next week in a

paper from Politeia, the

newest of the Conservative

think-tanks, which has close

links with 10 Downing Street. Warwick Lightfoot, the re-

port's author and a former

Treasury adviser, is expected

to argue that the Prime Minis-

ter's ambition of making Brit-

ain the "enterprise centre of

Europe" will be threatened

inless he is prepared to mount

Mr Lightfoot agrees that the

ps taken in the 1980s, which

luded seven employment

's aimed at eroding the

ver of trade unions, have duced big gains, giving ain the most liberal labour

ket in the European

n. But he is understood to

e that the existing "spi-yeb" of rules still distorts

Evers' decisions, reduces

Frity and raises un-

Bas expected to call for

Ru of the Redundancy Waris Act 1965 — which

Colon entitlement to a (St An lump-sum payment BATS who lose their jobs

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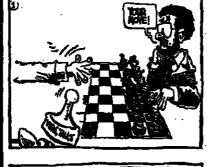
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fresh assault on red tape.

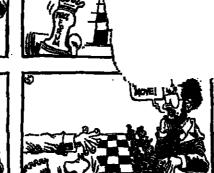
economy.

dating from the 1960s inter-













Turner and the cartoon that particularly incensed Sinn Fein. He says the party must "grow up" and learn to accept criticism in order to take part in democratic politics

Sinn Fein accuses cartoonist of 'cruelty' to Adams

BY NICHOLAS WATT

IRELAND'S leading cartoonist has so infuriated Sinn Fein by depicting Gerry Adams as a bloodstained defender of terrorists that the party has accused him of

Martyn Turner, who has become the first cartoonist to be named as Ireland's top political commentator, laughs off the criticism. The cartoonist, whose political sketches in the Irish Times influence thinking on both sides of the border, has told Sinn Fein to "grow up" Sinn Fein was particularly

censed by one cartoon in which Mr Adams was drawn sitting on one side of a chess board repeatedly shouting "Your Move" as America. Ireland and Britain grant him a string of concessions. Sinn Fein. which is sensitive about seeing its president drawn as a bearded fanatic, squinting behind his glass-es, wrote to Mr Turner to complain after he allowed the Northern Ireland Office to print the cartoon in an information booklet. The party also accused Mr Turner of singling out the IRA for more criticism than the loyalists. Mr Turner, 47, an Englishman

graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 1971, and started his journalistic career in Northern Ireland editing the political magazine Fortnight. However, he was always determined to be a cartoonist. He says: "It's a bit strange that Sinn Fein should accuse me of being cruel to them after what they did for 25 years. It's part of the growing-up process. If they want to take part in democratic politics, they will have to get used to

need to move into inclusive

political talks. I believe that

prolonged failure to do so is

we have to criticise them." Mr Turner, who describes himself as a "non-unionist, non-nationalist, non-violent, non-entity, has

spared nobody in the past year as he lampoons politicians over the peace process. The Rev Ian Paisley's eyes roll in permanent disgust and John Major looks bemused by the difficulties. The cartoonist has just published

a collection of his work entitled Pack up Your Troubles. Sitting in his studio at home in Co Kildare he says that most people in Northern

Politics at Queen's University.

Belfast, said: The Ulster Unionists will not get any

more power than they have

today. There is no immediate

crisis for the Government.

There is no forthcoming legis-

lation that will cause the

Ulster Unionists to withdraw

Relations between the To-

ries and the Unionists have

been strained for months.

Last year the Unionists voted

against the Government on

fishing rights and on VAT on

fuel. Labour, which is hoping

to defeat the Government in

the Commons on rail privati-

sation, will not have the

support of the Ulster

But any votes on the vexedissue of Europe could create

the most difficulties for the

Prime Minister. Ken Magin-

to give more power to Brus-

sels, to infringe our fisher-

men's rights, to undermine

our sovereignty, or to intro-

vigorously opposed." The

Unionists may also oppose Lord Mackay of Clashfern's

Family Law Bill, the biggest

duce a single currency will be needs of the United Kingdom.

their support."

and want to get on with their lives. "My thesis is that the majority of people in Northern Ireland don't care about politics. They are interested in jobs and secure homes. They vote along tribal lines but that does not mean they devote their entire lives to pursuing those

His book was "for the people who have been pursuing the peace process in their daily lives for the last 25 years (not just the last 25 minutes) by not joining in the nonsense we call the Troubles."

reform of the divorce laws for

But Mr Maginnis said: "We

Mr Maginnis said the Ul-

ster Unionists had not asked

for any special consideration

from the Government and

there were no plans to meet-

ministers to press for any

special deals. But he made clear that the Unionists were

only too aware of the position

they found themselves in. "We

know our place. We will make

the most of it. People know

where we stand on the big

"A narrow government ma-

jority does give us a degree of standing and awareness. But

we are reliable and honest. It

is worth remembering that we

made clear before the 1992

general election that in the

we would not seek to bring to

a premature end the life of the

Government, of whatever pol-

itical persuasion, provided the

and Northern Ireland in par-

ticular, were being served.

That remains our position

are not expecting any special deals from the Government. It

is patronising to suggest it."

pressure for tax cuts at the expense of public services, Michael Howard's efforts to crack down on illegal immigrants and impose longer sentences on criminals, cenment finance as areas of concern. But he was also alarmed by the Government's tone of voice. "A little bit more sympathetic rhetoric would undoubtedly help. We should steady the party and I don't think that the torrent of personal abuse which we are hearing against Emma Nich-

olson is exactly helpful."

Leading article, page 15

Charles starts ski trip with princes

The Prince of Wales, his sons William and Harry and their nanny Tiggy Legge-Bourke started a skiing holiday in Klosters, Switzerland, yesterday. They arrived in Zurich on time in spite of thick fog over East Anglia that caused their flight from RAF Marham in royal party, including Charles's private secretary. Commander Richard Aylard. accompanied by his daughter Sophie, ten, drove to the ski resort in a seven-car convoy. Also in the group were a valet, secretary and protection

be most unfortunate if any plausibility were given to the suspicion the peace in Northern Ireland would be allowed to suffer because of internal political difficulties at West-

minster.' However, Sir Patrick insisted that the even-handed approach of ministers to the peace process in Ulster would not be affected by the reduc-

Tory think-tank seeks

end to redundancy law

By Nicholas Wood, chief political correspondent

missal. Instead, employers

and employees would be free

to negotiate their own terms

and conditions of employment

and aggrieved workers would

be free to sue in the ordinary

courts rather than seek re-

course in employment tribu-

nals. More jobs would be

created and competition be-tween firms for staff would

prevent exploitation, he be-

Mr Lightfoot is understood

to claim that workers operat-

ing in a deregulated labour

market would be in much the

same position as consumers in

a highly competitive high

street. Just as shoppers can go

elsewhere if a store is charging

too much or offering substan-

dard goods, so workers would

be able to shop around for

system is that the courts can

interpret different and seem-

ingly unrelated sets of regula-

A danger of the existing

good employers.

tion in the Government's ma-

He said: "I believe that there is a very strong public desire to see all-party talks conducted on a fair basis with everybody sitting around the table fully committed to democratic and peaceful means." The Cardinal said he believed that John Major was

committed to a peaceful sol-

tions in bizarre ways - for

instance the House of Lords

decision forcing the Govern-ment to extend employment

protection legislation to part-time workers to avoid falling

foul of an EU directive on

discrimination against wo-men. But Mr Lightfoot will not

advocate a free-for-all. Legisla-

tion protecting young workers and covering health and safety

and discrimination would

The vast majority of vacan-cies available through job-

centres do not pay a living wage for a couple with two

children, according to the Manchester-based Low Pay

Unit. A year-end analysis of

vacancy data from all the

major jobcentres in Greater

Manchester shows that more

than nine out of ten jobs pay

A quarter of all the jobs paid

below the National Insurance

less than £200 a week.

threshold of £58 a week.

ution. "If he can deliver this, it could be his greatest political achievement and would ensure his place in history. I earnestly hope that, in co-operation with the Irish Covernment and with the agreement of the political parties in Northern Ireland, he will succeed in bringing this about. What is certain is

fraught with grave risks." Cardinal Daly added: "It is more than high time now to see negotiations under way as soon as possible so that paramilitary weapons may be decommissioned as a concomitant and as a consequence of political progress."
The Dublin Government that there is now an urgent has viewed with deepening suspicion the developments at Westminster since the defection of Miss Nicholson, One senior government source said: "There is a fear, and has been for some time, that the



British Government is placing too much emphasis on the views of the Ulster Unionists. We are aware the parliamentary situation in London is a factor in the peace process. Recent developments have ex-Political commentators in Northern Ireland, however, were baffled by the speculation that the Ulster Unionists might withdraw support for the Government unless they

Sir Patrick Mayhew said yesterday that the defection of Emma Nicholson would not affect peace prospects, a fear expressed by Cardinal Cahal Daly. Ken Maginnis said Unionists were "not expecting any special deals"

Times crossword open to doubles

By Brian Greer, crossword editor

A QUARTER of a century after its inception. The Times Crossword Competition will for the first time this year contain a doubles as well as a singles championship.

Many readers do the crossword with a friend or partner and we hope that they will now be encouraged to have a go together, knowing they will be pitted against others who also prefer to work in tandem.

Aberlour, producers of Single Highland Malt Scotch whisky, are sponsoring the competition and from this week onwards will also be providing the prizes for the Saturday Prize Crossword. Successful competitors at the regional finals can look forward to taking home a bottle of the mait and we expect that all competitors will have a chance to sample the product. The basic format of the competition remains the

required to tackle four normal puzzles during the course of an afternoon. But this year we bone to eliminate the Eliminator, which may disappoint some who look forward to this annual torture, but will mean that nobody need be disappointed at an early stage.
Subject to confirmation

were given more sway over

Paul Bew, Professor of Irish

the peace process.

when the first qualifying puz-zle is published on Thursday, January 18, the venues for the regional finals will be: Manchester (Sunday, February 25; Edinburgh (Sunday, March 31); Bristol (Sunday, April 28); London (Saturday, May 25; Birmingham (Sunday, July 7). By moving to a large hotel ballroom for the London event, we hope to accommodate everyone who wants to take part on a single

Crosswords, pages 18, 36 | and made a mockery of con-

MP says fishermen face more cuts in quotas

By Andrew Pierce

FURTHER cuts in fishing quotas were predicted by a Conservative MP yesterday as the Royal Navy patrolled the waters known as the Irish Box to prepare for the latest incursion by Spanish vessels.

HMS Lindisfarne, the fisheries protection vessel, moved into the waters as a European Union agreement took effect,

giving 40 Spanish vessels access to the seas around David Harris, the MP for St lves and chairman of the Tory fisheries committee, has writ-ten to the Prime Minister to call for changes to the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy, which is strongly opposed by fishermen in the

South West. Mr Harris, whose constituency includes the fishing port of Newlyn, said that admitting the Spanish boats would lead to further cuts in quotas



servation. The result is going to be massive over-fishing of stocks already under pres-

He said it would be difficult to ensure that there were only 40 Spanish boats at a time in the box. The capacity for deception was vast in a huge area of sea where boats could dodge in and out. "I am highly sceptical of the ability to police. They will not be able to control it," he said. Mr Harris, who last month voted against the Government in the Comwas a black day for the fishing industry. He said that more control of home waters had to be handed back to EU member states, with stocks conserved through net sizes and protected areas rather than iust auotas.

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, told BBC Radio 4's The World At One yesterday that the Spanish would not be getting any extra fish by coming into the Irish Box. They will be policed equally fiercely on the catches that they take to make sure the fish are the proper size and are within quota, as much as ensuring that there are no more than 40 trawlers at any one time in the Irish Box," he

"I have no reason to think other than that the Spanish will fully comply. They have already started to do so. They have provided the names of the first 20 trawlers which are going to be in the Irish Box; and the exact day they are going to be fishing.

"It will be a very stur," Spanish skipper who seeks break the rules. If he do he will be brought ight he will be prosec?" will be fined un

Jim Portus.

South West Fr Organisation, sa presence was me is always a deterri not think it will be A Ministry of Fisheries and man said vesterdnot clear how m vessels were head new fishing grou fishing was not go moment. More wou bly be known in a fo

Villagers fight to ground housing plan for airbase

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a new housing estate on a former RAF airbase in the Oxfordshire countryside are emerging as a crucial test of the Government's rural White Paper.

Oxfordshire County Council is considering a proposal to build 5,000 houses on the 1,200-acre Upper Heyford base, six miles northwest of Bicester, which was used by the US

Air Force from the 1950s until 1993. On the face of it, the scheme looks tailor-made for John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. By 2005 he wants half of all new houses to be the formerly Tory-led Cherwell Dis-

built on previously developed land so-called "brownfield" sites.

But the Upper Heyford proposal has provoked huge opposition from local people who say it would destroy the rural character of the Cherwell Valley. Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, whose Banbury constituency includes Upper Heyford, has called

the idea crazy and unjustified. "A settlement of 5,000 houses would be twice the size of Chipping Norton and about the same size as Kidlington and would be completely out of proportion," he said. "Our area of the county has already taken more than its fair share of new housing." It was

trict Council which first encouraged the idea of a large housing estate at Upper Heyford. Second thoughts set in after last May's local elections, when control passed to a loose alliance of Labour and Liberal Demo-

crat councillors. Patrick Burke, the council's policy planning officer, said: "We want to see the site developed, but with no more than 1,000 houses and associated commercial facilities to provide about 1,500 jobs, coupled with afforestation

of the rest of the land." Even that would be too much for Cherwell Valley Parishes, a coalition of 20 villages set up to oppose the scheme. Its secretary is Ian LoughOxford University and has lived in Upper Heyford all his life.

"A village of 300 to 500 houses is the maximum we would like to see," he said. What is being proposed amounts to a small town. The brownfield site argument is being used to justify a development that would never normally stand a chance of getting planning permission."

The council is committed to building 47,000 new houses over the period 1991-2011 and is still looking for sites for 12,000 of them. If Upper Heyford is ruled out, they would have to be built in existing towns or on greenfield sites.

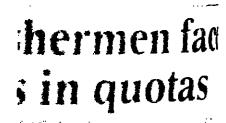


Lough-Scott opposed





A haries starts Trip with prim



Bad-tempered and extravagant? Blame it on the genes

gene that makes some people extrovers and eager for new experiences and others stolid and introverted. This is the first wholly convincing evidence linking a normal personality trait to the specific gene responsible.

The evidence is the more convincing because it comes from two groufs, working independently and using different methods. The success opens up a whole new field of psychogenetics and may make it possible to understand much of individual psychology on the basis of genetic inheritance.

The two groups, in Israel and the United States, found that the trait known as "novelty seeking" is kinked with a gene responsible for making the receptor for the

Next time you are heavily overdrawn, blame your parents. Two groups of scientists have now linked personality traits such as extravagance to a "novelty seeking" gene, Nigel Hawkes reports

brain chemical dopamine, which is known to be involved in

controlling the emotions. That some aspects of personality run in families has not been in doubt, as children often share many of their parents' traits. But the extent to which this is the result of the genes, or of upbringing, is open to argument. Studies on identical twins show that temperament, in particular, tends to be about half determined by the genes, and half by experience. The

Israeli team, led by Dr Richard Ebstein of the Herzog Memorial Hospital in Jerusalem, set out to investigate one temperamental trait, that of novelty seeking. Those who score high on this trait tend to be impulsive, exploratory, fickle, excitable, quick-tempered and extravagant. Those who score low are reflective, rigid, loyal, stoic, slow-tempered and frugal. In a sample of 124 unrelated

Israeli volunteers, they studied both test scores and genes. They

tests are more likely to possess a particular sequence of DNA base pairs - the letters that spell out the genetic code - right next to the gene responsible for making the dopamine receptor.

The differences do not lie in the gene itself, but in the region of DNA next to it. Receptors are the "sockets" on the surface of brain cells into which the chemical messengers - in this case dopamine - fit. The supposition is that the region of DNA that differs is the part that determines the strength of the binding between the messenger and its receptor.

This is apparently determined by the number of times a short section of DNA lying on the end

report in Nature Genetics that of the gene is repeated. Those with those who scored higher in the a large number of repeats are more likely to be novelty-seekers than those with a small number of

> The finding is confirmed in the same issue of the journal by another team, led by Dr Dean Hamer of the US National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland, Dr Hamer is the scientist who has previously claimed to have identified a genetic difference between homosexuals and heterosexuals, a claim that is yet to be independently

The US team used a different personality test and measured the length of the DNA repeat sequences in 315 people. They found that about two thirds of their sample had between two and five such as tobacco smoking and of the repeated regions, while a third had six to eight. These differences correlated with differ-

ences in personality scores. The result on its own is certainly not the key to personality. Dr Hamer estimates that the genetic differences identified account for only perhaps a tenth of the inheritability of the trait - in other words, there must also be other genes involved. This is no surprise, as it has always been assumed that complex traits will be determined by several, or

perhaps many, genes. But he adds: "A similar approach might be useful for detecting genes that identify abnormal psychological processes and health risk-related behaviours excess alcohol consumption."

The Israeli team reaches similar conclusions. The agreement between their results and those of the Americans is particularly impressive, they say, because the projects involved slightly different tests, a different ethnic group, and the US team showed an association within members of a family as well as between unrelated individuals.

"Given the significant heritability of many human behaviours and the rapid progress of the human genome project, it is likely that additional genes that influence normal and abnormal psychological characteristics will be found in the future," they

Daughter failed to arrive on flight

Father of missing solicitor to scour 'hippy' islands

THE parents of a young British solicitor missing in Thailand will today scour a remote "hippy" island in the hunt for their daughter. Stuart and Jackie Masheder flew out to the Far East after Jo, 23. failed to return home for Christmas, and said they planned to travel to the islands of Ko Phangnan and Ko Samui, about 335 miles south of Bangkok, and a favourite destination for New Age travellers. Mr Masheder, a business manager with a large chemicals company, said he had no leads to work on and

was relying on hunches. Miss Masheder had been due to fly home on December 22 to celebrate Christmas at the family home at Wincle, Cheshire, before starting a job with a firm of solicitors in London. Her parents last spoke to her by telephone from Chang Mai on December 7. December 8 Miss Masheder sent a postcard from Bangkok to a friend, but

there the trail went cold. Mr Masheder, 49, has employed local private detectives and placed newspaper and radio advertisements appealing for information about his daughter. As she wanted to tour the islands in the south of Thailand before returning home, Mr and Mrs Masheder are concentrating on that area.

Speaking from his hotel on Ko Samui, Mr Masheder said Christmas had been "hellish" for the family. "I thought she might have had problems travelling around but I became really worried when she missed the plane," he said.

'She had Christmas, her sister Kate's 21st birthday and a new job to look forward to. She is a sensible person and we are a very close family. If it had just been a change of plan she would have done everything to

get in touch with us."

He said the family were pinning their hopes on Miss Masheder having been cut off by transport or communications problems. Many islands in the south do not have telephones or newspaper de-



liveries. He added: "When you get here you certainly understand that some of the more which is where backpackers like to go, do suffer from transport problems and communications difficulties.

"Unfortunately the trail has been completely cold so far with no sight, no sound of her. Our emotions are like a see-saw. I have appealed through the local press for anyone who might have been travelling with Jo in the north at the beginning of December, or on

her way to Bangkok on December 8, or after that travelling south to get in touch. We know there were South Africans with her but there may have been British people too."

Miss Masheder, a law graduate from York University, was on the final leg of a solo three-month round-the-world trip when she disappeared. Her travels had already taken her to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Cheshire police are liaising with Interpol in the search for her.

Wendy Millard, Miss Masheder's aunt, said: "We are all sick with worry. Jo has kept in touch with us all the time she's been away, either by telephone or postcard. Her parents flew out to Thailand to look for her because they couldn't sit at home waiting for news. She's such a happy, friendly gregarious person and very, very responsible."

Police in Cheshire said Britons returning from holiday in the Far East may have crucial information about Miss Mashender's whereabouts, Inspector Bob Bates urged them to search their memories to provide even the smallest detail of her movements after

He said: "We are certain that other backpackers and holidaymakers who are returning home from Thailand will have seen this girl on their travels and could hold vital information about her where-

"It is so out of character for her to go off without a word and we are extremely concerned for her well-being."



Time and tide: Bob Smith, 72, and Mary Dowson, left, and Eleanor Atkinson, both 81, were among New Year's Day swimmers at Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. Mr Smith took his first annual dip in 1951 and hasn't missed one since

Eubank blames weather for blast

By Carol Midgley

THE former world boxing champion Chris Eubank said yesterday that he accepted full responsibility for a New Year's Eve fireworks party where two women suffered severe facial burns.

Mr Eubank. 29, who staged the impromptu celebration on Brighton beach for his family and friends, spoke of his regret after being questioned by police and released on bail. The two victims, aged 29 and 38, vere injured when a firewore ignited others and exploded into the crowd. The explosion is said to have rattled windows in restaurants on the scafront.

Both women were being treated at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, for serious burns to the face, neck. hands and chest. It is not yet known whether they will suf fer permanent scarring.

Mr Eubank said yesterday I thought I was being safe but I reckoned without the weather. After I had ignited one firework the wind blew it linto a whole bunch and they went up. I take full responsibility for what happened. After all

they were my fireworks."

The former world supermiddleweight champion said he had gone to the local police station voluntarily and had been arrested there. No charges were made but he was bailed to return to the police station in five weeks.

Mr Eubank, who lives in nearby Hove, had been entertaining his wife and two children at a hotel in Brighton. "I'm so sorry about this. Everyone was having such a good time," he said.

A Sussex Police spokesman said that the Health and Safety Executive had been called in to investigate the

Man who took on muggers is shot dead

By Adrian Lee

A PASSER-BY who tried to stop a mugging was shot dead yesterday and two of his hiends were injured.

Police were hunting a gang of four or five men who escaped in a car after the killing in the St Paul's area of Bristol. Detectives said the victim.

Evon Berry, from the neighbouring Montpelier area, had been on his way home from a New Year's Eve party when he intervened. Mr Berry, 37, who daughters, was shot in the head and staggered 50 yards before collapsing outside a taxi office. One of the two friends, who

are brothers, was shot in the side and the other was pistolwhipped. They were under guard in a Bristol hospital last night. The shot man, aged 36,

A BLOODHOUND walked

five miles to fetch his master's

discarded old slippers from a

stbm rather than bring

m a new pair bought as a

Fetching the old burgundy

slippers for Nick Harrison, 47, had been Augus's job since

he joined the household more

than two years ago. When a

new tartan pair took their

place, the family knew there

might be problems, so the old

pair were taken away to be

thrown in a bin outside at Mr

Harrison's workplace, two-

and a half miles from home.

been taken along for a walk

when the dumping took place

ust after Christmas. When

Unfortunately, Angus had

Christmas gift.



Berry: was returning from party with friends

was said to be "serious but table". The other suffered a head injury that was not serious. A witness said Mr Berry pleaded for his life with his hands in the air before being shot at close range. The gunman suddenly turned on

Mr Harrison took off his

shoes in front of the television.

Angus ignored the new fur-

lined gift bought by the com-

pany director's wife Suc, 41,

and vanished. He returned an

hour later and dropped the

old slippers at his master's

Mr Harrison, of Pudsey, near Leeds, said: "He had

always brought my slippers

without me asking, and I

wondered where he had got

The route would have taken

Angus over fields, across a by-

pass, through a shopping centre and into an industrial

estate to reach the yard of Mr

Harrison's graphic reproduc-

thought it was hilarious."

shots into the ground before threatening them.

The witness, who asked not to be named, said: "They backed off as soon as they saw the gun. But this guy was berserk. He fired two shots at Evon's feet and smashed the other guy in the face. "He then turned and fired at

the other two as they contin-ued to back off. Evon just said 'Peace, peace', before he was

The mugging target, a man in his 30s from the Southampton area, was not seriously wounded and was able to give detectives information about

The shooting happened at about 7 am as Mr Berry returned from supervising a party at the Malcolm X community centre, where he was caretaker. Mr Berry, a popu-

tion company, and then back

again. Because they have had

problems in the past with

Angus bringing in rubbish

from the bin at home, the

couple have often thrown

things away at Mr Harrison's

Mrs Harrison, who breeds

bloodhounds, said: "The dogs

can sniff out a trail that is 12

hours old and Angus is al-

ways picking up scents when

"The new slippers had no

scent to them, but the pong on

the old pair must have been

unbelievable to his nose. When he gets his nose down, he is oblivious to anything

else until he locates what he's

looking for. He has always

we take him walking.

workplace.

"Bangy", saw a man being pistol whipped. The victim was surrounded by a group of four men. Mr Berry and his friends asked what was going on and were told to "mind their own business".

As he and the others continued to protest they were threatened and gunshots were fired. As they moved back-wards, their hands in the air, a man ran forward and more shots rang out, police said. Mr Berry's widow. Linda,

said: "He was a lovely man who was just a big, gentle person who would not hurt anybody. We will all miss him, he was such a good father and a husband."

His sister Jasmine, 26, said: "Everyone in the area liked him. He was a loving family man who cherished his wife and children. Evon enjoyed life to the full. He had a steady job, a beautiful loving family

attached to them."

son said

and many friends."This has shattered the whole community. He has never done anything wrong. He was not into drugs or anything like that,

she said.

The St Paul's area is notorious for drug dealing and was the scene of riots in the 1980s. Chief Inspector Piet Biesheuvel, of Avon and Somerset Police, said: "The three men were walking home after a night out on New Year's Eve. Unfortunately they became the victims when they tried to

be an attempted street robbery. "At this stage, there is no motive for the shootings. These men may just have been in the wrong place at the wrong time."

intervene in what we believe to

It is thought the gang of young men, who fled with only a gold necklace, came

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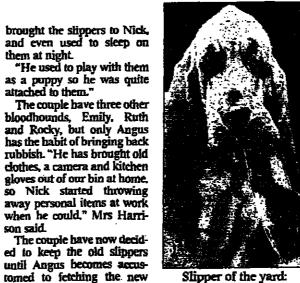
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Heads concede that women can also run schools

By David Charter, education correspondent

A 125-YEAR tradition ended yesterday when the Headmasters' Conference changed its name to recognise that schools can also be run by women.

The initials HMC will be retained by the society, set up in 1869 for the heads of a select group of boys-only schools. But the amendment, to the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, reflects a sea-change in independent school education in recent years, which has seen two-thirds of the HMC's 240 schools admir

The renaming was agreed by members with just one dissenting (but anonymous) vote and came as the fourth HMC school headmistress was named. Priscilla Chadwick will become principal of both Berkhamsted School for Girls. which previously had separate head teachers.

separate head teachers.

The first female HMC head was appointed three

years ago. Gwen Randall took up her post at Framlingham College near Woodbridge in Suffolk in September 1993. She has been followed by Alison Willcocks at Bedales in Petersfield. Hampshire, and Helen Williams at the Royal National Institute for the Blind New College.

Vivian Anthony, secretary of the HMC, said: "We are likely to find our schools appointing the best person for the job and there are certainly instances where, in a coeducational school, the best person could be a woman.

The conditions of membership for HMC will remain the same even though the title has changed. We are not trying to snaffle the women from the Girls Schools Association, it is simply recognising the fact that women are being appointed to coeducational school headships."



Lynette Mathieson, 27, with Georgia, born as midnight struck at Liverpool Women's Hospital. She wins £1,250 from a food firm as the first child of 1996

Council proposes merger to save education costs

Community split by plan for first all-age school

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

THE usually serene community of the Isles of Scilly is in conflict over proposals to merge the two schools on the main island. St Mary's. Councillors have decided that, with an ageing population, there are not enough children to support both a primary and a secondary school. Their solution is to set up the first allage state school in England.

But the plan, which is still to be approved by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has opened deep divisions. One resident in ten has signed a petition opposing the merger, and there have been calls for a public inquiry amid allegations that the decision may have been based on misinformation.

Governors of the secondary

school, which topped national examination league tables in 1994, have registered a statutory objection to the merger. The row has been simmering for three months, since

Professor Duncan Graham.

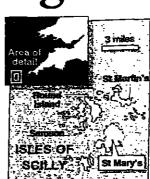
former chief executive of the National Curriculum Council, recommended the merger to deal with rising deficits. The education authority called him in to find savings of £87,000 a year as the number of pupils fell. The islands' council is to hold a special meeting this month to reopen the debate.

Although the population of

the islands has remained at just over 2,000 throughout the century, many of the new residents are retired. The primary school on St Martin's has only two pupils; that on St Agnes, eight. With 125 pupils, the one secondary school, on St Mary's, is England's smallest comprehensive. Within four years, it will be reduced to fewer than 100 pupils.

Professor Graham estimat-

Professor Graham estimated that the authority could save £71,000 by merging the Isles of Scilly School with neighbouring Carn Gwaval primary school. But the figures, which were kept secret when councillors debated the



report in September, have been hotly disputed by opponents of the plan.

The secondary school's governors issued their own report last month, arguing that the savings would be "minimal" and the inevitable disruption would damage education. They claimed that councillors had supported the scheme in order to retain control of the schools' management.

A "diary of events" in the governors' report claims that secret talks with the primary school had been taking place since the start of the year. A governor was said to have been "scorned and hymiliated" when he tried to put the case against merger at a public meeting.

Marian Bennett, who resigned as a councillor before the furore broke, said: "There is clear evidence in this peaceful island haven of a breakdown of the democratic process, of misinformation and a total failure in the relationship between the local education authority and its schools."

Steve Watt. the council's tourism and development officer, acknowledged that the secondary school governors felt "bushwhacked", but said the scheme was the best financial and educational solution to the islands' problems. "It has developed into a schism between the primary school and the secondary school, which is a great shame."

which is a great shame."

Mrs Shephard has until the end of the school year to give her decision, but the council hopes she will make an anouncement this month.

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British airport chips put French fries to flight

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

THE myth that airport restaurants and cafés in France serve better food than their British counterparts has been quashed by Egon Ronay.

While the self-appointed

While the self-appointed guru of culinary endeavours liberally peppers a new report on Heathrow's food outlets with words such as "excellent", "delicious" and "the best", the fare at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris is "fit only for people who have damped their palate".

damaged their palate".

Mr Ronay, it is true, had been paid by BAA, the airports operator, to compare catering standards in four of Europe's busiest airports. But he was accompanied throughout his investigation by two other people, who agreed with

his findings.

"We are delighted with the result of the survey," said a BAA spokesman yesterday.

"We always knew we had the best food and the widest choice at Heathrow and this has confirmed it." The Ronay results will be made available

Heathrow soars above rivals

HEATHROW is still by far the busiest international airport, latest figures show. In the week of January 15-21, about 625,000 passengers will depart from its terminals on international non-stop flights. In comparison Frankfurt deals with 396,000 passengers

and Hong Kong 388,000.

However, Heathrow has to play second fiddle to the huge American airports when it comes to total passenger numbers. Chicago's O'Hare airport, its figures boosted by hordes of domestic travellers, tops the list with more than 954,000 passengers due to depart between January 15 and 21. Heathrow is fifth in the total list with 720,208

to its European rivals, somewhat gleefully, by BAA. They will show that some of the fare available at Schiphol (Amsterdam) was "not fit for humans" while the catering at

(Amsterdam) was "not fit for humans" while the catering at Frankfurt was at odds with the Germans' reputation for efficiency. Mr Ronay concluded that many Heathrow caterers make better coffee, better chips and even better croissants than their continental competitors.

Schiphol is anchored at the foot of the Ronay airport league table, getting just one out of ten for the quality of its food, "It is for the food masochist," he says. "It is helow criticism."

Charles de Gaulle is just ahead, with two out of ten. "The airport's catering runs completely contrary to the French reputation for food." Mr Ronay said. "I would advise people to eat before they get to the airport."

He gave Frankfurt four out of ten. "All the catering, including the food, exudes inefficiency." Heathrow was awarded six-and-a-half to seven out of ten.

Among the outrages the team's stomachs were subjected to was an "absolutely scandalous" croque monsitur and a "rather laughable croissant in Paris; a hot dog sausage at Schiphol which tasted "like a piece of leather": and an "inedible" matjes herring in Frankfurt.

Mr Ronay and his team centred much of their attention on the most commonly bought products with coffee and chips being given marks out of ten. Heathrow came top in both. The most highly rated chips, which were half a mark short of perfection, were at the Heathrow Burger King. The worst, at Charles de Gaulle airport's French Riviera restaurant, received zero.

taurant, received zero.

The best coffee — nine out of ten — was at Heathrow's The Granary restaurant in Terminal 3. Two outlets in Amsterdam and two in Paris both scored zero.

BA cracks secret of the flying toaster

By A STAFF REPORTER

ONE of the last great challenges of flying has been solved at last: how to make fresh toast and cappuccino at

Until now, thin air has prevented even Italian airlines from persuading coffee to froth at high altitudes, while fear of fire has meant that toast had to be made on the ground and reheated in the air.

A secret technological breakthrough was launched last year by British Airways on VIP flights for the Queen and John Major. The equipment worked so well that it is being introduced on 90 planes flying long-haul routes.

First Class passengers will have their first taste of the new luxuries this week, before the scheme extends to Club World and World Traveller classes.

Passenger surveys by the airline had discovered that cappuccino coffee and fresh,

hot toast were two of the most wanted items on the airline's flights. The machines were designed by Blackpool engineering company Aerolux and their secrets are being heavily guarded. All they will disclose is that the toaster has a cut-off device to prevent the toast burning and catching

Each year. BA serves 40 million cups of criffee and 15 million pieces of reheated to ast. The figures are expected to rise as the choice is widened.

widened.

The airline's manager of aircraft interiors, David Lake, said: "It is incredible that the industry has developed the world's most advanced aircraft, but just could not make a crisp piece of toast and decent Italian coffee on board.

until now,
"It seems so simple, but
there's a feat of electronic
engineering behind every cup

and every slice."

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Metvest may be answer to knife attacks

By OUR CRIME Y CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST 3,000 different types of knives have been used to test new body armour for London police officers. Within the next few months 440 suits of armour will be handed out at police stations in the capital for testing on the streets.

The Metvest is the result of nine months of research by Scotland Yard. To find a new formula for the armour the Yard examined 2,900 knives used in attacks on the London streets over 18 months. The armour is designed to protect against knife thrusts equiva-lent to a blade travelling at up to 6 metres a second, or 35 kilojoules of kinetic energy. It should also offer protection against handgun ammunition such as 9mm and .357 in bullets. At the same time the armour, which weighs less than two kilos, should be light enough to be worn throughout an eight-hour shift

The Yard will not discuss the materials used or the possible price per vest but experts say the vests are likely to be based on Kevlar and would cost £200 or more each. The winner of the contract to produce the vests could almost certainly expect worldwide

The specification was drawn up after the Yard tested existing armour on the market and found it unsuitable. Body armour was subjected to shots and stab wounds delivered by

a special rig. The Yard has already issued 4,000 sets of body armour for set-piece operations, such as sieges. They are often carried in cars. Another 1,000 sets of covert body armour are held in stock and may be used on dangerous surveillance or CID operations, including raids. The Metvest is intended

for everyday use. Deputy Assistant Larry Roach, heading the project, said: "The Metvest faces its crucial test. We will not ask whether it is wearable but whether police can carry out their full range of operational duties while wearing it

The search for protection followed a series of knife attacks and murders of officers which left police on the beat angry about the lack of official body armour. Police were particularly unhappy over the death of beat officer PC Patrick Dunne, shot when he went to investigate the murder of a drug dealer in south London. Sir Paul Condon, the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was personally told by beat officers about their anxiety.

Underworld stays silent as detectives piece together victims' last moments



Flowers and a memorial wreath still lie at the scene of the murder. A detective said: "Whatever society thinks of these three characters, they were loved and respected"

Second killer finished off drug dealers

BY STEWART TENDLER

A GUNMAN who killed three drug dealers in Essex used an accomplice to help finish off his victims, police said yesterday. The victims trusted their killer so implicitly that they brought no weapons to a socalled business meeting in a quiet country lane near the village of Rettendon. Almost four weeks after

Tony Tucker, Patrick Tate and Craig Rolfe were found shot dead in their Range Rover, detectives are still facing a wall of silence. The under-world has so far ignored appeals for information and police fear criminals will take the law into their own hands.

Yesterday, at the entrance to the lane where the men died, seven floral displays and a wreath still lay on the ground. One to Tate read: "A wonderful man. Poison did this to

It was December 6 when Rolfe, 26, drove his new car to the meeting. Analysis of the scene showed that another vehicle was already parked against the side of the track. The Range Rover drove by and halted at a gate.

As Rolfe halted with his foot on the brake, the gunman









Tate, left, described in one tribute as a wonderful man, was probably the assassins' prime target. Tucker and Rolfe died because they were with him

moved forward and opened the rear offside door beside Tate. He swung up a shortened, three-shot, pump-action 12 bore and shot Rolfe and Tucker once each behind the ear. The last shot hit Tate full in the stomach.

The gunman then reloaded and shot all three again. He reloaded for a second time, and police think he may have handed the gun to a second man. This could have been the man who hired him, or his getaway driver. Whatever the reason, the gunman wanted to make sure someone else was

implicated in the killing. Two shots were fired and one was left in the gun in case the killers were challenged as they

Detective Superintendent Ivan Dibley, leading a 40strong murder squad, said: "It has got to be someone they trusted implicitly. Revenge is a realistic prospect. There is no way those three would go down there unarmed, unprepared and at ease."

Now there is fear in the underworld. Not only are criminals facing revenge but Dibley said: "Whatever society thinks of these three characters, they were loved and

At the same time, other teams of drug dealers and suppliers may try to fill the void created by the deaths. South Essex and the area around Basildon has become the home ground of traffickers stockpiling supplies brought from Holland via Harwich and Dover.

The three men dealt in a range of drugs including can-nabis and Ecstasy. Tucker, the 38-year-old business brains of the three, made enough from his illegitimate and legitimate interests to pay a £165,000 mortgage on a luxury home at

the rate of £1,200 a month. The killers may have been targeting just one of the trio, but may have had to kill them all. Investigators are concentrating on Tate, 37, released from prison five weeks before the shooting. An aggressive former armed robber and body builder who made heavy use of steroids, a mystery gunman had shot at him outside his home in Basildon

1994. Tucker is thought to have known Tate since their boyhood days. He was also keen on body-building and used steroids. He had built up a successful business providing burly doormen for clubs Basildon area into the edge of

some cases club bouncers have become part of the drug Rolfe, a heavy user of cocaine, was the "gopher" for Tucker and would run errands. Unlike the other two, while he was out on licence in he had no criminal record.

the East End of London. In

Remand for shopworker on stabbing charges

A supermarket worker ap peared in court yesterday charged with ten attempte nurders after shoppers and staff were stabbed in a knife ttack Shahid Iqbal, 22, of Birmingham, is also accused of attempting to cause griev-ous bodily harm to two police

Mr Iqbal, a shelf-stacker at the Netto store in Bordesley Green, Birmingham, where the attack took place, was remanded in custody for eight days by city magistrates. Five people are recovering in hospital after the attack on

Lottery rush

A'rush on National Lottery they reopen today after being closed for New Year's Day. The organiser, Camelot, be-lieves the lottery jackpot, which will be at least £33 million, could reach £40 million this week as the double rollover draw on Saturday

Rooks survey

The British Trust for Ornithology is planning a survey of the impact on rooks of rur-al change. It is feared that their food supply could be under pressure because of modern farming methods and the recent hot and dry summers, and their nesting sites from Dutch Elm Disease and theban development

Ex-teacher killed

A retired teacher was stabbed to death on his occorstep late on New Year's Eve; in Snow donia. William Hughes, 62. is believed to have or rened the door to a caller at his cottage in Tregarth, near Eangor Gwynedd. A police spokes-man said that a local man. aged 26, was helping". their inquiries.

Famine marke**y**

The Irish Government b approved £1,000 grants to restore 12 graveyards where victims of Ireland's famine are buried. The money is part of a programme to mark five years in the middle of the last century when the potato crop failure caused more than a million deaths and sparked mass emigration.

Superman hurt

A new-year party-goer dressed as Superman broke his ankle and suffered cuts to his head after jumping 15ft into a frozen canal near Leeds. The man, still wearing his fancy dress costume, was taken to Leeds General infirmary by firemen from nearby

Army transforms British Tommy into high-tech 'lethality man'

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE infantry soldier of the next century will become a high-tech "lethality man", according to a futuristic plan being drawn up by the Ministry of Defence.

By 2010, soldiers could be equipped with a helmet like that of a fighter pilot with a head-up display giving instant information about the battle-

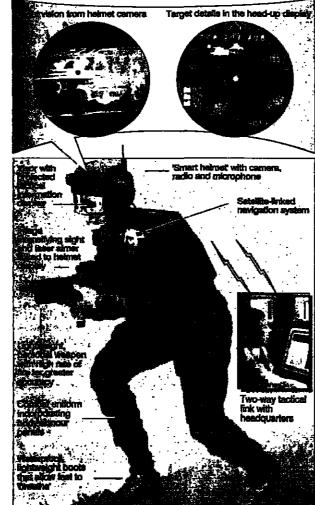
Under a programme called future fighting soldier system, the MoD is researching ways in which the Army can take advantage of the best military technology without requiring the infantryman to have a doctorate in physics or to carry a heavy power pack to keep all the electronic gadgets working over long periods.

The aim of the study, which being carried out by the MoD's defence research agency, is to ensure that the British soldier is not equipped with the latest technology on a piecemeal basis, but as part of

an overall concept. in the past, new equipment has sometimes been supplied by the Army without proper assessment of how it will fit the soldier's needs in different battle situations. For example, soldiers trying out a new antitank gun discovered that they could not look through the eyepiece if they were wearing

a respirator. The early version of the "lethality man" - the description used by the MoD focuses on the need to develop an integrated fighting system. incorporating new technologies to enhance combat effectiveness in the next century.

The first phase of the research programme is well



soldier equipped with a hel-met-mounted low-light camera, a head-up display behind a protective visor, and a rifle with an image intensifying sight and a laser aimer. The picture in the head-up display

will be able to switch between

The key element of the research is to provide the soldier in the field with accurate up-to-date information which would allow him to outwit the enemy. The plan is

mapping and compass, and the ability to transmit pictures back to headquarters, although not in real time.

Colonel Donald Wilson, who is in charge of the programme as deputy director of the Army's operational re-quirements, said the timing for the new-look soldier involved three phases.

The first will come at the turn of the century when the Army's Bowman digitised combat radio is due to come into service. Five years later the Army is expected to introduce a "revolutionary" combat uniform, called Combat Soldier 2005 — replacing Combat Soldier 95 clothes which were unveiled last month.

Under government policy guidelines, in 2010 the fighting soldier will not be armed with a laser weapon that can kill or blind an enemy. Lasers will be used only in target marking and assessing ranges. The Army's current SA80

rifle will be improved with thermal imaging sights but the weapon itself is due to remain in service until about 2015, which means that the fully integrated soldier with a new high-tech rifle will not appear until after then.

Colonel Wilson said: "In every other area of operational capability, the Army thinks in terms of manning equipment. But an infantry soldier is the platform for equipment and it's vital he is given systems that suit his needs and abilities."

The new fighting system will be based around five elements - lethality, survivability, communications, mobillity and sustainability (providing enough batteries to power the high-tech

Exports lift BBC income by £75m

By Alexandra Frean MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

OVERSEAS sales of the BBC's documentary history series People's Century, which chronicles the events of the past 100 years, helped to push the corporation's commercial revenue to a record £75 million in 1995.

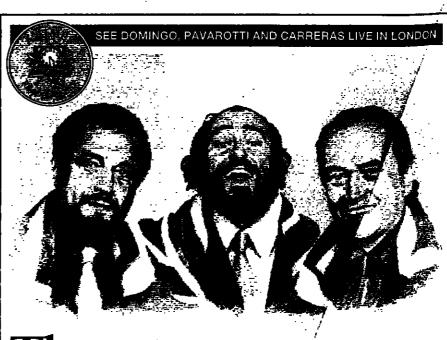
The 26-part series was sold to broadcasters in 14 countries in 1995, earning the BBC £5.6 million — more than half the £10 million production costs and more than any single factual series in its history. Colin Jarvis of BBC

Worldwide, the corporation's commercial arm, said: "It is very rare to recoup the entire investment in a programme purely from international sales, but if People's Century continues at this level, we will get very close."

People's Century records the achievements and disasters of the 20th century through the eyes of the ordinary citizens who witnessed them at first hand,

The second best-selling programme was the six-part adaptation of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, which cost around £6 million to produce and achieved sales of £2.5 million in 15 countries. It was followed by The Buccaneers, an adaptation of Edith Wharton's unfinished novel, which earned £1.2 million.
Sir David Attenborough's

six-part natural history programme, The Private Life of Plants, earned £1.1 million and the soap opera East-Enders came fifth with sales



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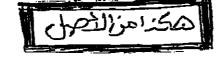
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Fears over Agnelli's style cast doubt on EU agenda

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AS ITALY took over the Euro-pean Union presidency from Spain vesterday amid domes-tic political turnoil, there are the political turmoil, there was ment of national unity to universiting over whether a uncertainty over whether Su-complete sunna Agnelli, the Foreign reforms. Minister, would be able to steer the EU through the Centre-Left parties want prior critical opening stages of revising agreement on the reforms, in the legislation on the ing the Maastricht treaty during the next six months.

Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat mag-nate, became Foreign Minister a year ago at the age of 73 regard his "broad coalition" as when Lamberto Dini took over as interim Prime Minister after the collapse of the Centre-Right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi. At the week end, however, Signor Dini resigned, and President Scalfaro asked parliament to decide this week whether Italy should hold elections or give Signor Dini a further term as caretaker leader. Signora Agnelli's fate therefore depends on Signor Dini's.

In his new year message. Signor Scalfaro hinted that he was against early elections. saying the interests "both of Italy and foreign countries" required at least six months

Italy's electoral

However, the leaders of the ancluding legislation on the media, which would directly Signora Agnelli, sister of affect Signor Berlusconi's conopponents on the Centre Left

Agnelli: loses patience

a ploy to avoid a trial later this month on bribery charges. The impasse leaves Signor Dini and Signora Agnelli holding the ring. Diplomats are alarmed, however, by the uncertainty over whether Si-

gnora Agnelli will be chairing ministerial meetings throughout the six-month presidency. Some go further, and are unsure whether she has the patience to manage

The colourful personality of Signora Agnelli, who writes an agony aunt column in the magazine Oggi, stems partly from her upbringing in the Agnelli dynasty. Her autobiography. We Always Wore Sailor Suits, describes a life of youthful privilege, with cham-pagne for breakfast and wild drives with her brother on the

She has remained untouched by Italy's corruption woman in the Dini Cabinet. has acquired a reputation for robust impatience with red tape and waffle. She developed an almost passionate admiration for Douglas Hurd when he was Foreign Secretary, seeing him as the arche-Italophile English gentleman.

مكنامن الأصل

Some diplomats find her forceful style refreshing, but others are worried by her open dislike of long and "tedious" detailed EU discussions. Spanish officials in particular complain that Signora Agnelli paid only a flying visit to Madrid just before Christmas to "pick up the baton" of the EU presidency. Spain fears that after the achievements of the Madrid summit last month, including agreements on EU enlargement and the single currency timetable. Si-gnor Dini and Signora Agnelli

will let the EU agenda slip. Carlos Westendorp, Spain's new Foreign Minister, said at the weekend that Italy and Spain had a shared interest in ensuring that relations between the "hard core" countries joining a single currency and those left outside it were properly regulated.

To have a single currency with different conditions would be a catastrophe for us



General de Gaulle broadcasts to occupied France from the BBC World Service studios in London in 1941

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'Voice of liberty' is silenced by costs and changing tastes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French language service of the BBC, which sustained France during the darkest hours of the Second World War, was silent yesterday for the first time in more than half a century, a victim of budget cuts and changing tastes. Established in 1938, French

broadcasts by the BBC World liberté to many in France and a potent symbol of resistance to Nazi occupation.

The decision to scrap the service coincided with new laws limiting the amount of British and American pop music that can be broadcast by French stations.

The BBC played a key role in stiffening French resolve during the war. On June 18, 1940, de Gaulle, speaking from the BBC studios in London, called on the French people to stand firm against the German occupiers, and on the eve of D-Day the service broadcast the famous line by the poet Paul Verlaine, "Les sanglots longs des violons de l'automne" ("the long sobs of autuninal violins"), a coded message that liberation was

imminent. However, with French audiences dwindling and widely dispersed the BBC has ruled that the service is no longer economically viable. The World Service must cut costs by £6 million this year in line with Foreign Office budget restrictions. The BBC "greatly regretted the necessity of this decision", Andrew Taussig.

head of the BBC European Region, said. French commentators yesterday paid tribute to "La Beeb". The day de Gaulle

broadcast his message of hope and determination, the BBC "became part of French history", said André Gillois, a wartime broadcaster.

At midnight on Sunday, just as the BBC ceased broadcasting to the French people, a new law came into force requiring French radio stations to ensure that at least 40 per cent of all pop songs broadcast are in French. The law is aimed at nurturing the French pop industry, defending French against English and rolling back what some see as an encroaching tide of

Anglo-American culture. Many music industry analysts admit, however, that there is hardly enough good French pop music to meet the new requirements. "We are going to have to broadcast mediocre stuff," Gérard Louvin, president of the radio station Voltage FM, said. Others point out that French

pop music is less successful than the Anglo-American variety because, for the most part. is considerably worse. Listeners anxious to escape banal French pop music still have one recourse; as one newspaper noted yesterday: "The French will still be able to hear broadcasts by the Beeb ... in English".

Leading article, page 15

Denmark tries to revive city of culture

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

LAUNCHED with a huge firework display. Copenha-gen entered the new year as Europe's 1996 capital of culture and embarked on a campaign to revive the city and make it the hub of a dynamic new region at the mouth of the Baltic.

The 800-year-old Danish capital with its relaxed provincial charm seems affluent to tourists. However, the home of about one million people has in recent decades become more of an administrative centre: new industry has been moving out to the provinces, leaving the central and harbour areas to decay. An exodus to the suburbs has meant falling population

and decreasing tax revenue, pushing the city deep into debt when more money is needed to tackle high levels of crime and drug problems.

The capital of culture

project has a one billion kroner (£115 million) budget, with 600 events planned involving more than 50,000 people. About 100 visiting projects will include displays of paintings by Picasso and Rembrandt, an Islamic exhibition, music festivals, ballet, theatre and modern dance. The Royal Danish Ballet will perform a new Hamlet rock ballet beside the most of

Greeks postpone talks on succession

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT IN ATHENS

GREEKS celebrated the new year yesterday in Athens' Constitution Square, but the spec-tacular firework display was overshadowed by continuing uncertainty over Andreas Papandreou, the critically ill Prime Minister.

Optimists had expected that the end of the festive period would see George, Mr Papandreou's eldest son, as the Education Minister, walking into his father's suite in the Onassis Heart Centre and emerging later with a docu-ment announcing the Prime

Minister's resignation. However, nothing is that simple under the Byzantine and, critics say, totalitarian way in which Mr Papandreou, 76. runs his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok).

Despite claims by some doctors that the Prime Minister will never be fit enough to resume his duties, Pasok's executive bureau, has decided to postpone talks on the suc-

cession until January 20. Miltiades Evert, the leader of the conservative New Democracy, has threatened to call a vote of no confidence against the Government on January 7 unless Pasok begins the process of succession.

in his new year message, President Stephanopoulos sent a clear signal to Pasok to replace Mr Papandreou.

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Dangers facing Riyadh's rulers lie in the gap between myth and reality

audi Arabia is not a country. it is family business. This observation by an Arab friend is as apt today as it was a decade ago, when he had just returned from listening to King Fahd brooding on the threats that surrounded his kingdom. Perhaps only North Korea has

politics as obscure as those of Saudi Arabia. Its rulers claim authority from tradition, and its critics frequently cast it as medieval, yet Saudi Arabia is a modern creation. just seven decades old, a product of the conquests of the Nejdi tribal coalition of four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula in the 1920s, a time before oil gave the region any special importance. Britain was not happy, not least because the Saudi warriors proceeded to annex twothirds of the British-protected state

The danger facing Saudi Arabia



Its rulers claim their authority from tradition and critics cast it as medieval, yet Saudi Arabia is a modern creation, writes Fred Halliday

ences of time and ideology, it will go the way of its first friend, the Soviet Union. It is not so much external military threat or internal revolt but a combination of sclerosis among the aged men who rule it and the challenges of a new educated middle class that will bring the Saudi story to an end. For all its claims to Islamic rectitude. the state itself is a modern one. financed by oil, armed and guaranteed by America and deploying a contemporary form of religious intolerence to quell opponents. Yet, while it holds a quarter of the

but a middle-income country. Per capita earnings are around £3,900. employment for the educated is becoming increasingly hard to find, and there is widespread resentment about the corruption of the many princes of the royal house.

Women may be contained and coerced, but they are as aware as anyone of the gap between Saudi myth and Saudi reality, and be-tween that reality and the outside world. Saudi concern with public opinion is clear from the efforts they put into censorship at home and abroad. With an elite that eniovs its international shopping

urips, videos, luxury cars and whisky as much as anyone, Saudi Arabia now faces a persistent challenge that no shuffles at the top, or invocations of Islamic tradition, can dispel.

For decades the country was able to use its oil wealth to insulate itself from outside challenge; its neighbours on the peninsula, from Kuwait to Yemen, knew what the sword on the Saudi flag portended, while the Saudi rulers, strong in their verbal support for the Islamic cause in Palestine, were careful to ep out of involvement in the five Arab-Israeli wars. The oil boom of the early 1970s appeared to justify reliance on "oil power", but events after 1973, when the oil price was quadrupled, have shown the limits

In 1977. Anwar Sadat, the late Egyptian leader, broke Arab ranks and sought a direct peace with Israel. In 1979 the Saudis woke up

Islamic rival across the waters of the Gulf. Saudi influence in Washington, the cornerstone of its foreign policy, was weakened in the 980s and, from 1982, the price of oil began its long decline.

Il this appeared to change when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August 1990. But the victory over Iraq. while a welcome respite for the Saudi family, brought its own problems: costs of up to \$70 billion (£45 billion), renewed conflict with populous Yemen, pressure from Washington to normalise relations with Israel, and a growing nation-alist and Islamist opposition within the country itself. Many in the Saudi elite now argue that Kuwait is not worth defending, and that they should make their peace with Saddam, Fahd's 1993 creation of a consultative council did little to

est political asset the monarch retains is the negative example of what has occurred all around, in Iran, Iraq and the Horn of Africa. As with the Soviet bureaucracy,

there are signs among the Saudi rulers of divided opinion, and the long period of uncertainty associated with Fahd's recent years has compounded these divisions. Crown Prince Abdullah, nominated to rule on an interim basis. is believed to be more nationalist and pro-American than the "Sudairi Seven", the seven sons of King ibn Saud's favourite wife Sudairi. He is also known to have good relations with the regime in Syria, and may well feel strengthened by the rift that has opened up between Tehran and Damascus over Israel. But he is unlikely, given the collective pressures to which he,

too, is subject, to take bold initia-

tives. The problem of change is

compounded by the variety of opposition opinion within the country. The Shias of the Eastern Province appear for the moment to have been won over by concessions from the ruling family. The liberal, somewhat more secular, middle class wants gradual opening up, but not if this means civil war or Islamist rule.

The Islamists appear to want a replacement of the Saudi family as a whole. There is also much sinister rhetoric in their proclamations. The family is not about to go out of operation; the business, however, may be in considerable trouble.

☐ Fred Halliday is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics. He is the author of Islam and the Myth of Confrontation to be published on January 16 (I.B. Tauris, £12.95)

Secretive family holds the key to Arabia's stability

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE House of Saud is the richest, most extensive and most secretive ruling dynasty; in the world. On it depends the stability of Arabia and the Gulf, the security of the world's oil reserves and the custody of the two Islanic holy cities that are sacred to more than a billion Muslims all over the world.

The royal descendants of Abdul Aziz ibn-Saud, the puritan warrior from central Arabia who united the peninsula 70 years ago, number in their thousands. All the top jobs in the kingdom are controlled by the ageing sons of the revered monarch, or his grandsons. Although King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz recently announced the app sintment of technocrats in the/most thorough Government shake-up for 20 years, the levers of power - the army, intelligence services, home and foreign affairs ministries - remain firmly in the family's hands.

Yesterday's announcement is the first clear confirmation that the stroke suffered by more extensive and debilitatthan previously announced, and that the line of succession has been firmly

THE HOUSE **OF SAUD**

established and will not be allowed to become a cause of friction within the family. Although he has laid down his mandate only temporarily and has not abdicated, there is little confidence in Saudi Arabia or Western capitals that he will resume the throne. By tribal tradition, the suc-

Washington: There was no immediate comment from the White House yesterday, but King Fahd's announcement is bound to cause apprehension (Martin Fletcher writes). The 73-year-old monarch has been a firm friend of America ever since the 1991 Gulf War.

cession has, since the death of Ibn Saud, passed from one of his 44 sons to the next, rather than by primogeniture. But a family conclave has to endorse the succession. The first king, after a reign of profligacy; the throne passed in 1964 to the

greatest so far of all Saudi

What unites the entire ruling family is the Wahhabi brand of fundamentalist Islam; King Fahd has proclaimed himself the "Custodian of the Two Holy Cities" and it is this title that is paramount. Religion is strictly controlled and enforced, with

monarchs, King Faisal, who was the man more than any other who brought Saudi Arabia into the modern world and laid the foundations of an oilfinanced welfare state. His two sons, both well

educated and articulate, hold key positions in Saudi Arabia today: Prince Saud al-Faisal is the Foreign Minister, and his brother Prince Turki heads the intelligence service. If the succession is ever to skip a generation. Prince Saud is the stronger contender. After King Faisal's assassí-

nation, the throne went to King Khaled. But he was in poor health; King Fahd had held the job of Prime Minister and took over on his brother's death. Two of his younger brothers hold key positions: Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, next in line after Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, is the Defence Minister, and Prince Salman ibn-Abdul Aziz is Governor of Riyadh.

Prince Sultan's two sons also hold key appointments: Prince Khalid was the commander-in-chief of forces during the Gulf war. and his brother. Prince Bandar, is Saudi Ambassador to

There has been widespread speculation over rivalries beween the princes. It has been suggested that King Fahd has tried to freeze out Prince Abdullah and has more trust in Prince Sultan. But as one member of the family said: Outsiders forget that this is a family. They meet frequently, They do not suddenly threaten to turn the National Guard on each other.

restrictions on Christian wor-

ISRAELI and Syrian negotia-

tors resume talks on a seclud-

ed estate near Washington

tomorrow amid conflicting re-

ports on what they achieved

Simon Peres, Israel's Prime

Minister, told his Cabinet

there had been "understand-

ings reached with the Syrian

representatives on a number

of issues", but Ehud Barak,

the Foreign Minister, offered a

meeting of Israeli settlers on the Golan Heights a more

guarded assessment. He said

last week



ship and a rigid adherence to

Religion, however, is the field where the Sauds' rule has faced the greatest domestic challenge. A fundamentalist movement in Nejd, central Saudi Arabia, sparked riots last year, and is nourished by dissident Islamic exiles who accuse the Sauds of profligacy, neglecting Islam and failing to defend the kingdom despite huge spending on arms.

At the same time a growing budget deficit, caused partly by the Gulf War expenditure, brought about an economic crisis last year that led to the near bankruptcy of thousands businesses dependent on the Government. This led to considerable grumbling in the growing and educated Saudi middle-class of merchants and professionals.

Last year, the Government moved to quell dissent. It quietly changed the composition of the ultra-conservative arrested ring-leaders of dissident clergy; adopted a radical budget that cut spending by 20 per cent and slashed subsidies; and consolidated a former advisory council — the Majlis al-Shura — which brought senior professional men and academics into the

decision-making process.

Last month a bomb that killed six American advisers underlined the potential for dissent and led to debate in Saudi Arabia about the country's strong pro-Western orientation and the need to adapt a tribal system of government to a complex developed economy. This, as much as anything, probably provoked impatient younger princes to persuade King Fahd that he should step aside. He may now find it hard to come back.

Leading article, page 15

Prince intolerant of dissent

PRINCE ABDULLAH, at 71 two years younger than King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, is likely to be less overtly pro-Western than his brother. He is closer to the Islamic establishment in Saudi Arabia and more critical of the West, Israel and Western interests in the Middle Fast.

This is unlikely to lead to any changes in Saudi foreign policy, which is governed by caution, discretion, pragmatism and a preference for quiet diplomacy rather than public pronouncements.

However, it may lead to a slight distancing from Saudi Arabia's close involvement with America, even though the 77,000-strong National Guard, fiercely loyal to Prince

Abdullah, is being trained and advised by American

personnel Prince Abdullah has a reputation for greater personal probity than his younger brother Sultan. He is also intolerant of dissent, and may make greater use of the Guard to round up dissidents, crack down on pro-Iranian fundamentalists and uphold religious strictures which are already zealously enforced by

the Mutawaa religious police. His most difficult task will be to bring the economy back into balance. The 1996 budget, published yesterday, will maintain a spending freeze while the world's largest oil

hardships caused by a drop in world oil prices and the huge costs of the 1991 Gulf War. The new 150 billion riyal (£25.9 billion) budget is forecasting an 18.5 billion riya deficit in 1996, compared to a

forecast 15 billion riyal shortfall in 1995. The budget was published after discussion by the Cabinet during its weekly Prince Abdullah will re-

main as secluded and secretive as his brothers, handicapped by a stutter and a reserved manner. He has a strong rapport with the Bedouin, however, and is likely to be more energetic in restoring self-confidence to the kingdom which has clearly been unsettled by recent internal and external challenges.

promotes diplomat to Prime Minister

Crown Prince Abdullah leading the Saudi team at a Gulf

PRESIDENT ZEROUAL of Algeria has appointed a skilful negotiator, Ahmed Ouyahia, as Prime Minister to replace Mokdad Sifi, who becomes a state minister.

Mr Ouyahia, a 43-year-old career diplomat, was the President's head of Cabinet from early 1994 after Mr Zeroual was appointed as head of state, a position he consolidated in Algeria's first multicandidate presidential election on November 16.

The new Prime Minister won a reputation as a skilful negotiator when he brokered a 1993 peace accord that ended warfare in neighbouring Mali between its Government and Tuareg guerrillas seeking

more autonomy.

Mr Ouyahia took over on Sunday evening after an official ceremony in the government heaquarters. The new Prime Minister also held talks with his predecessor.

Political sources said Mr Zeroual had earlier entrusted Mr Ouyahia with carrying out several rounds of dialogue with opposition parties, which had given him experience of Algeria's complicated political arena and the aspirations of

Muslim fundamentalists. It was Mr Ouayahia who last July briefed local journalists on failed negotiations benween jailed leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)

and the presidency, which were held to try to end four years of violence in which an estimated 50,000 people have

The departing Prime Minister was among the rare hold-ers of that office to win recognition even from opposition parties for his Government's performance in reshaping a crippled economy and holding the country's first multi-candidate presidential election. The poll attracted a huge turnout despite Muslim guerrilla threats to kill voters.

Diplomats and analysts said they believed that Mr Ouyahia's appointment was aimed at underlining Mr Zeroual's commitment to hold parliamentary elections in the next six months and to continue talks with the opposition, including the jailed FIS lead-

Mr Zeroual had promised to encourage young people to take part in political life, including top positions. Mr Ouyahia was widely expected to carry on Mr Zeroual's programme of economic reforms and reshaping Algeria's institutions through multipar-

Under Algeria's constitu-tion, the President holds huge powers, leaving the Prime Minister with a largely executive and management role to carry out his policy.

Algerian President | Mixed signals as Israel and Syria prepare for new talks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

the two sides "had yet to begin to talk about substance and it would take more time to know whether there is a partner to

negotiate with". Walid Mualem, the Syrian Ambassador to Washington who heads his country's negotiating team, said the atmo-sphere was better and the three-day talks more serious than the previous negotiations that collapsed six months ago, but "no final understanding was reached on any of the subjects discussed".

The two sides had "discussed with clarity and seriousness a number of issues, but the matters are still not settled ... The talks were useful, but they are still

exploratory." The Clinton Administration has convened the talks at the Wye Plantation, a conference centre on Maryland's eastern shore, an hour's drive from Washington, in the hope that the informal atmosphere will lubricate the stalled negotiations between two of the

Middle East's most implacable foes. An Israeli-Syrian accord is the key to a comprehensive

Middle East peace settlement. but the two nations have been unable to agree terms for an Israeli withdrawal from the

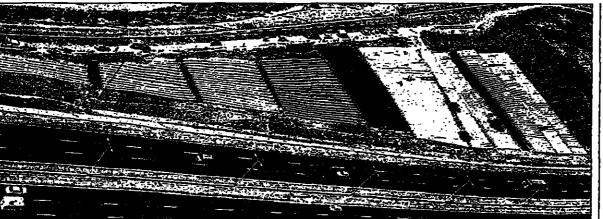
Golan Heights. Iran has meanwhile at-tacked Syria, its main Arab ally, for seeking peace with Israel. Over the weekend Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's Foreign Minister, accused Syria of "humiliating itself", and

Hassan Habibi, Iran's Vice-President, is said to have cancelled a trip to Syria.

Iran also said yesterday that it would protest to the United Nations and the World Court if the US Congress approved a \$20 million (£13 million) covert action fund being sought by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, to destabilise the Tehran Government.

In June the United States imposed a trade and investment embargo on Iran, and Mr Gingrich has urged President Clinton to approve the covert action programme. even though the CIA is unsure how to spend the money. Cairo: Islamic militants put President Mubarak of Egypt at the top of their hit-list for

said it had killed two policemen, including a lieutenantcolonel, and a passer-by "just hours before the end of 1995" and its priority for the new year was "to liquidate" the Egyptian leader. (AFP)



AN AERIAL view of 18,740 chairs placed next to the Tel Aviv-Haifa motorway yesterday to represent the number of people killed in traffic accidents in Israel since 1948 (Bill Hutman writes). The figure is more than the number of Israelis killed in military conflicts. Yesterday

Campaigning for safety

one-day campaign was held in the country to reduce the number of road accident casualties. The fact is that the major cause of accidents in this country is bad drivInternal Security Minister. said at a press conference to launch the campaign. Patrol cars were out in force aided by helicopters on the lookout for reckless drivers. One police district reported that

it had run out of traffic tickets because so many were issued. The campaign ap-peared to have worked. Only 13 road accidents were reported in Israel yesterday compared with more than 80 on an average day in the tion of nearly five million.

EU chides Arafat for flouting electoral laws

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

EUROPEAN monitors yesterday criticised Yassir Arafat for bypassing election laws, including shortening the cam-paign for the Palestinian

Carl Lidborn, the head of European Union's Electoral Unit, issued a statement expressing concerns about developments affecting the elections due later this month. He highlighted the decision of the Palestinian Authority to shorten the campaign period from 22 to 14 days without explanation".

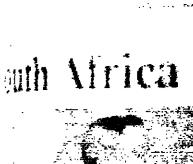
He said it was a matter of regret that Mahmud Abbas, the chairman of the Palestinian Central Election Commission, had not seen fit to discuss such matters with the EU

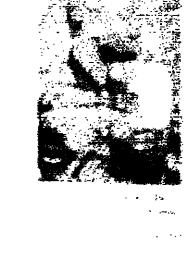
said he would have raised the question of why Mr Arafat, the chairman of both the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was allowed to issue presidential decrees affecting the elections, including increasing the number of scats in the Legislative Assembly.

"The events of the past few

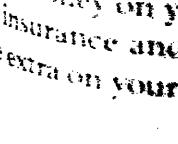
days have created confusion and uncertainty, and give the impression of the arbitrary use of power to redesign the electoral architecture," he said. The European Electoral Unit believes that the series of improvisations and irregularities should now cease if the elections are to retain any













Sarajevo resounds with gunfire and explosions as Bosnia celebrates peace at start of year

Peking calls for new co-operation over Hong Kong

CHINA'S top official handling Hong Kong affairs hailed 1996 with a call for a new dawn in Sino-British ties in the 18 months before the handover of

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the territory.
This year would be the most important in the transition to the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on July I, 1997. Lu Ping, the director of China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said.

"I am looking forward to a new dawn appearing in Sino-British co-operation on the issue of Hong Kong," Mr Lu

Britain for "creating many obstacles to the stable transition of Hong Kong and smooth transfer of power". A visit to Peking next week by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, would see new progress, with the issue of

Hong Kong expected to top the agenda, Mr Lu said.

President Jiang Zemin dominated the Chinese from pages on New Year's Day, in a clear reminder that he starts 1996 as the designated successor to About 3,000 Chinese

KwaZulu toll rises

From Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg

A FURTHER 20 people have been murdered in Kwa-Zulu/Natal as a year that claimed close to 1,000 victims came to an end. More than 200 have been killed since

The latest toll came yesterday despite government pledges to step up security in the most volatile areas. This followed the massacre of 19 people on Christmas Day. They were attacked near the Shepstone by an impi of up to 600 supporters of the Zulubased Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu

In Johannesburg, police fired rubber bullets as new year celebrations turned into chaos. Five people were injured, three critically, as bottles, plant pots and even a

settee were hurled from flats. In a new year message President Mandela referred to the Government's proposals to privatise some state assets, including the national airline and parts of the post office, which threaten to set off intensive industrial unrest and a showdown between the African National Congress and its major alliance partner, the Congress of South African

Wall outside Peking as part of a campaign to promote outdoor sports and physical fit-ness. The organisers, includ-ing the Chinese Mountaineer-ing Association, had hoped to amract 10,000 climbers.

In Sarajevo the new year was greeted with heavy bursts of machinegun fire, tracers and explosions, but for the first time since the spring of 1992 the shooting was in joy, not anger.

For several minutes before and after midnight, tracers and flares lit up the sky around the city to mark the start of 1996, but the shooting was aimed harmlessly into the air rather than across the frontlines. Most residents stayed indoors at private parties. Loud music echoed through deserted streets with taxis ferrying people from one

celebration to another.
Nato's peacekeeping force. monitoring the recently signed peace agreement, was not pleased by the traditional outpouring of Balkan exuberance. A spokesman said that people could be harmed and said he regretted that appeals for restraint had been ignored. Elsewhere around the world

new year celebrations were

marred by violence, including

deaths by stray bullets and fireworks, and hundreds of In the Philippines at least II people were killed and 700



Some of the 3,000 Chinese who climbed part of the Great Wall near Peking on New Year's Day in a campaign to promote sport and health

more injured as Filipinos defied a ban on the use of powerful firecrackers and guns to welcome the new year. Police and health officials said that stray bullets killed six people, two died after being hit by firecrackers, and two were

stabbed in drinking sprees. In Manila, nearly 500 people were taken to 41 hospitals with gunshot and stab wounds, burns and blast inju-ries. Four people were killed

by fireworks and fires in Germany, police said. In the town of Bad Frankenhausen, about 120 miles southwest of Berlin, three people died, in-cluding a child of 18 months. when a firework fragment set she swallowed powder from sweet-sized fireworks left a flat alight.

Berlin greeted 1996 with a massive firework display at the Brandenburg Gate. Police and firemen spent the rest of the night breaking up brawls and putting out fires. Three Italians, one a 16-month-old girl, died and 936 people were hurt as Italy saw in the new year with rockets and gunfire. Police in Naples said Nunzia Martino, a toddler, died after a firecracker. Two revellers froze to death

Two people were killed in incidents involving firecrackers while celebrating the new year in The Netherlands. Dutch police said the firecrackers were illegal imports. A 21-year-old student died new year with renewed viowhen he slipped from the roof lence at Sydney's Bondi Beach, police said.

In New York a record of a house in Amsterdam where he had climbed to light

crowd of soose than 500,000 cheered the arrival of 1996 in Times Square, and millions flocked to statues and temples in Japan to pray for no repetition of the terrors of 1995 the Kobe earthquake and

South Africa laughs at itself

IN JOHANNESBURG

MILLIONS of people across South Africa are being drawn together through laughter, thanks to a new sitcom that pokes fun at the absurdity of racial prejudice.

In less than two-months. Suburban Bliss has rocketed to the top of the television ratings, stirring passions in bars and on talk shows. The first cross-racial sitcom bravely runs the gamut of racial stereotypes from musical tastes to crime and domestic servants — and after only a handful of episodes the rainbow nation is hooked.

Viewers have been introduced to two families - the white Dwyers and black Molois - who become neighbours in one of Johannesburg's formerly white suburbs. Fresh out of Soweto, Ike Moloi is the epitome of the upwardly mobile black who



Seputla Sebogdi as Ike, the yuppie from Soweto

has to contend with a precocious wife. Billy and Kobie Dwyer, an Afrikaner couple, employ Mr Moloi in their furniture company. Billy's father Hempies, an unashamed racist, is horrified by "those people" living so close and loses control when he learns ike has been given a 20

per cent stake in the business. The hardest-hitting lines are reserved for Hempies Dwyer and his foil Ma Moloi, the unflappable African grandmother, who trade racial insults over the garden fence. You bloody racist baboon," she spits when Afrikanerdom's answer to Alf Garnett calls her a Pondo [tribal namel pygmy". Gray Holmeyr, 46, the cre-

ator and executive producer, says: "It is a kind of release mechanism to be able to laugh at ourselves. People have nev-er heard this kind of thing on South African television before. After all these years, they are pleased to find it all so

In one episode, the two wives simultaneously decide to employ maids: Kebie goes out of her way to impress upon her new employee that she is not racist while Ike's material-istic wife, Thando, delights in being called "madam". In the

erects 40 yards of razor wire along the garden fence and sits in his yard, rifle across his lap, peering through binoculars for intruders from the Moloi's boisterous party.

Motshabi Tyelele, 27, Thando's real-life alter ego, chuckles when she reflects how the humour gets so close to the bone: she had dreamt of having a white maid during her upbringing in Sowero The danger of this country is racial labelling - blacks are called thieves and criminals, whites are racists and so on. The question is how do you break the walls down? I think humour can remove some of

Alicia Luvuno, 19, a university student and self-confessed Bliss addict, says the show exposes the way we relate to each other. It makes people talk because they can relate to it. We must get prejudice out

Dole takes the lead in race for money

less ability to raise money. Senate majority leader raised \$5.7 million (£3.65 million), more than double the amount collected by his rivals, in the

final quarter of 1995. Phil Gramm, the Texas senator who has described ready money as "the most reliable friend you can have in American polities", raised \$1.9 million. Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor. received \$1.5 million. Indeed, the two men consid-

ered likely to be Mr Dole's main challengers, raised even less than Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator who collected \$2.3 million.

No figures have been released for Steve Forbes, the publishing tycoon, since he is financing his own campaign. He is thought to have spent more than \$7 million in the past three months and has jumped into second place in the polls as a result of saturation advertising.

Mr Dole's overflowing warchest gives him a huge advantage in a primary season that is compressed into a mere six weeks by California's unusually carry contest. From the moment lowa holds its caucus and New Hampshire conducts its primary next month, candidates will have no time left for fundraising.

Nigeria frees aide to Abiola

Lagos: Nigeria's military authorities have freed another senior aide to Chief Moshood Abiola, the detained presidential claimant, according to local newspapers. They said Ademola Adeniji-Adele, held without trial for 17 months in the northern city of Kaduna, was freed last Saturday and was expected to return to his Lagos home tomorrow.

He is the third aide of Chief Abiola, the undeclared winner of the annulled 1993 presidential election, to be freed since pressure on the Government to release political detainees was stepped up last November after nine minority rights activists were hanged.

Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, who was one of the nine, was

isthmus in central Sulawesi, was unlikely to be known until today because of poor communications. There were no immediate reports of loss of life but at least 21 homes were damaged. (Reuter)

Firing squads kept busy

Peking: Firing squads drawn from the People's Armed Police were busy in the final weeks of 1995 and the situation is unlikely to change (James Pringle writes). About a third of all criminal offences are punishable by death. Observers believe that between 1,400 and 1,500 people a year are executed, and China carries out about 60 per cent of the world's legal executions.

No sex please we're Kenyan

Nairobi: President Moi of Kenya banned a family planning book published by the Girl Guides Association of America as immoral and promoting promiscuity because it talks about sex, the Daily Nation reported. He issued a warning about the dangers of over-population. (Reuter)

American nuclear 'swat' team emerges from the shadows

in Moscow early on New

Year's Day when they col-

lapsed in icy streets after heavy drinking sessions.

Twelve people were arrested

after police were pelted with

broken bottles and rocks as

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

Disposal experts, who train

DETAILS are emerging about a secretive American government agency that maintains 1,000 specialists on 24-hour stand-by to respond to the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The Nuclear Emergency Search Team — Nest — keeps its own aircraft at bases outside Las Vegas and Washington DC, and can put a rapidresponse unit anywhere in the country within four hours. The plainclothes "swar"

teams track down nuclear devices with radiation sensors inside briefcases, and are controlled from a command post inside an ordinary mini-van. The Nest agents are linked to the White House, Pentagon, CIA. FBI and State Department over a communications network known as "Poison

by building and dismantling their own homemade nuclear bombs, can deactivate any devices by surrounding them with super-hard "containment foam" and then defusing

Now headed by a glamorous blonde named Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, Nest was created inside the US Energy rorists threatened to set off a nuclear device in Boston if they did not receive a \$200,000 (£130,000) ransom.

The agency has been placed on alert 110 times and actually mobilised 30 times, although all the incidents turned out to be hoaxes.

In her first press interview. Ms Gordon-Hagerty recently told The Washington Times try - were America's "unsung Discussing the threat of a nuclear terrorist attack. Ms Gordon-Hagerty said: "I think more in terms of when, not if. With more radioactive ma-

that the staff of Nest - most of

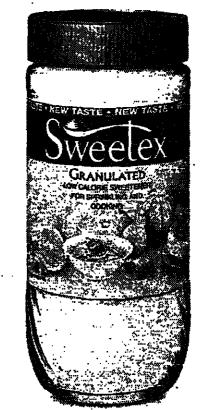
whom are civilian volunteers

from the nuclear power indus-

terial finding its way onto the onen market since the collapse is now considering a sizeable increase in Nest's annual budget of about \$40 million.

If it all sounds like the stuff of Hollywood, it may well soon be so. The Hollywood Reporter said last month that a screenplay entitled First Strike, about a Nest agent called out of retirement to locate a stolen nuclear missile. had sold for \$200,000.

yesterday named man of the Celebrated. year by the independent Nige-rian press. "Ken Saro-Wiwa single-handedly shook this nation, even in death," the Guardian said. For this alone, 1995 belongs him." (Reuter) Recuperated. Indonesia hit FROM MARTIN FLETCHER by earthquake IN WASHINGTON Jakarta: An earthquake mea-NOT one primary vote has yet suring 7.0 on the Richter scale Granulated. been cast, but Robert Dole's grip on the Republican presishook Indonesia's Sulawesi island, destroying wooden dential nomination is reflecthouses and triggering tidal ed both in the opinion polls and in his seemingly effortwaves and aftershocks. Officials said that the extent New figures show that the of damage along a remote



Sweelex

FEEL FREE TO BE SUGAR FREE IN '96

chides trafat for ting electoral law

: for new talks



Save money on your home insurance and spend a little extra on your home.





CHOICE 1

Good versus evil in a Scottish castle. in Merlin the Magnificent

VENUE: Today at the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh



CHOICE 2

Opening night for The Duchess of Malfi in the West End

VENUE: Tonight at Wyndham's Theatre





■ CHOICE 3

Last chance to see Timothy West in Stoppard's brilliant play Jumpers VENUE: All week at the Playhouse, Norwich



FILM

Actor Morgan Freeman would rather be a screen villain than just another Hollywood hero

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI Opening highlitor Anastesia Hille playing the beleaguered heroine in Check by Jown's new production. Dodan

Ormerod Wyndham's, Chaing Cross Road W/2: 1017 (-369-1746). Tonight, Tom Then Mon-Sal, 7-30pm mote Thurs and Sat, 2-50pm Unit Jan 27.

THE MASTER BUILDER Last week of performances for Peter Hall's sequally understated production. Also Bates is the producing hero with fire performances by German Jones and Metaos & Funtion. Victoria Hamilton Theatre Royal, Havmarket SW1 (0171-930 8800) Tomote Sat, 7 45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm (5)

VIENNESE SWIRLS John Georgiadis vicionesse switchs John Georgadio debrates nean/20 vicin, as conduct of the Dondon Symphony Octobesitals Viannese exemings, with all the Joudin Machiban Sile Sheer, ECZ (0171-638 8991) Today, Jipm and 7 Jipm (2) **ELSEWHERE**

BOLTON Drawn from the York Myster, plays and adapted by Tony Hamson. The Netivity prondes a timely antidote

☐ ACCORDING TO HOYLE Tense and distry William Caminara play centering on the potent sessions played between eistivitile linends Hampstead, Swiss Cortage Centre NY3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Sat 8pm cas Sat Jenni (ii)

CAIN Lord Byron's biblical Mystery catches frein this ranval Pft, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 3891) Tonight, 7 15om (§) FUNNY MONEY Ray Cooney plays the man who linds a bag of barti-notes in his latest face. Charbe Drake excellent as a soriely-tired (acciding Playhouse, Northumborland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839-4401) Mon-Sat Spri. mats Thurs, 3cm and Sat, 5cm (5) — The GLASS MENAGERIE Sem Mendes's radiant production, Joe Wanamaker and Clare Sunner; Italy mother and daughter, Ben Walden's Tom ☐ THE GLASS MENAGERIE Sam

Comedy, Panton Street, SW1,0171-363 1731). Mon-Sat, 7,30pm, mais Sat, plus Dec 28 and Jan 4, 3pm. MOTHER COURAGE AND HER A MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN Distan Rigg sturdily moving in title role of Brecht's epic defunciation of war. Jonathan kent directs a new version by David Hare National (Olivie), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Thurs 7 (5pm, mar Thurs. 2pm (2)

☐ RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET A marvellously mad mo, of The Tempest with Great Balls of Fire and

ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS (PG) Overbearing vehicle for rubber-laced Jim Carrey, down among Allican tribes. Director: Steve Gedeler!

Clapham Picture House (017) 498 3323) MGMa: Fulham Road (§) (017) 370 2636) Trocadero (§) (0171-434 0031) Odeon Kansington (01426

914666) Scroen/Baker Street (0171-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

◆ FOUR ROOMS (18): Uniturity goings on at a hotel on New Year's eve

Rodnquez, Alexandre Rockwell and

Chelses (0171-351 3742) MGMs: Fullum Road (0171-370 2636)

Fulfram Rose (0171-370.305) Haymarkot (0171-839 1527) Odeon Kensington (01426 91466) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen/Groen (0171-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys இ (0171-792 3322) Warner இ (0171-437 4343)

HEAVY (15): Slow, absorbing American

Deborah Harry Clapham Picture House (0171-498)

3323) MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) Renoir (0171-837 8402)

THE WHITE BALLOON (U) Shripi

moving gem from Iran about a young girt's struggle to buy a goldfish. Renoit (0171-837 8402) Ritzy (0171-

◆ BARE (U) Glorious, vivacious lamily

ul a sheep-heroing pig, with a

chic directors, Quentin Tarantino, Robert

NEW RELEASES

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

for panio, Last week or performances Octagon, Howell Croft South 61204 5205611 Torright-Sat, mats Wed and Sat, 2pm &

CARDIFF Escape into the glonous guisc and farwhole magic of Seeping Seauty, from Moscow City Ballet Beauty opens foreight, following a longer main: The Nutropacker St David's Hell (01222 878444)
Tonght-Fin, 7 30pm, mai Fin, 2 30pm (S)

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW Stuart Parerson's Mertin the Magnificant is a ale of cood versus evil, complete wr an ageing wizard, wicked Morgana le Fav and the boy Arthur, all in a crazy Scotten castle. This is the last week to scotters reside in the terms are well we calcor the surably transactic sets and costumes. Over in Glasgow, conductor Schward Wanen and the Reyal Socitish National Orchestra wattz their way into the new year with a traditional Genesic organization. Viennese programme **Royal Lyceum &** (0131-229 9697)

THEATRE GUIDE

other cosmic first of the 1950s and 1960s Shaftesbury, Shartesbury Avene, W/2 (0171-379 5399) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fn and Sat, 5om and 8 30pm, Also Dec

☐ RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB. Engish Touring Theathe's production of Jonathan Harvey, 5 thoughtful and passionate set in an east London bedsit where most of the characters have love

Criterion, Piccadilly Grous, WI (0171-939 1498) Tue-Sar Spm. Sun, 7pm, mars Sat. 4pm and Sun, 3pm IN THE TOWER: Alexandre Dumas' high romanisc melodrama goes way over the too for most modern tastes but is worth a wat nonetheless. Sinead Cusach plays the sevi-mad and Today, 2:30 amd 7pm **Royal Concert Hal**l, Buchanan Street **⊗**±0141-*2*27 5511) Today, 3pm

NORWICH Last week of performances too for the first production in the newly completed theatre. Guy State directs Timothy West and Angharad Rees in Stoppard's Jatanpers, a brilliant combination of acrobates, philosophy and murder. Planthouse. Guy Wharif. St. George. Jumpers, a brilliant combination or acrobatics, philosophy and murder Playhouse, Gun Whart. St George's Strott (01603-766-66). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; mas and Sat. 2 50pm.

LONDON GALLERIES Houses (0171-747 2885) National
Portrait Gallery Richard and Mana
Coswey (0171-305 0055) Regai
Academy, David Hockney Drawntg
Retrospective (0171-439 7439)
Serpentine William Tumbull sculpture
and paintings (0171-723 9072)
Tater Coin Saf. The Art of War 1939-45
(0171-887 8000) V & A Jain Art
from India, Back of the Envelope
Jamous an and design scribbles (0171338 8500) Whitechapel Emil Noice
(0171-522 7888)

☐ SOUTH PACIFIC Patri Boulave and Peter Proycarpou thea@Ssiar in Phil Willington strong and warning production of the Bodgers & Hammerstein tropical evergreen DriB Half, Channes Street, WC1 (0):71-637 8270) Tue-Set, and Jan 7 and [4, 7 brown.

In TRAINSPOTTING Irving Waish's blackest of black cornected set on the wild side of Edinburgh Limited London season after record-broaking four Ambassandors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111) Mon-Fn, 8pm, Sat, 5-30pm, mars Wed and Sat, 5pm

■ THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

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Looking for Mr Badguy

gain the pendulum has swung too far. Morgan Freeman, .Hoilywood's premier Afro-American character actor, cannot get the parts he wants. And all for what used to be the right reasons.

"I don't get offered anything but good guys, otherwise it wouldn't be politically correct," the 58-year-old actor says wearily. "But villains are much more fun to play. There are directors who want to cast me as the bad guy, but then the producer will say, 'No, no, no, you can't do that it's Morgan Freeman. So, yeah, I'm typecast."

The irony is that Freeman. after 28 years in the business. broke into the mainstream with his portrayal of a vicious pimp in Street Smart. His performance not only triggered a salvo of awards and an Oscar nomination, but also prompted Pauline Kael, the doyenne of American film critics, to ask: "Is Morgan Freeman the greatest American actor?" She then went on to answer herself in the

affirmative. In the bad old days black actors were typecast as pimps and drug dealers. Now they are cops. But Freeman had played policemen only twice, both of them small parts, in a total of 26 films. That is one of the reasons why he jumped at the chance to star alongside Brad Pitt in Seven, which opens in Britain on Friday.

A harrowing contemporary thriller, Seven chronicles the exploits of a serial killer who engineers the demise of his victims to suit their sins. But if their sins are deadly, their deaths are horrific, even though the murders themselves are committed off-

The film has been a surprise commercial success in America, grossing \$87 million in 12 weeks and far outstripping the autumn competition. Furthermore. American critics have praised it generously, invariably singling out Freeman's performance as William Somerset, a battle-scarred cop determined to catch his man before retirement.

"Primarily, I was attracted to the film by the chance to play this kind of role." Freeman says. "Somebody who is cerebral, driven and problemsolving. And I was intrigued by the subject. I don't know what the appeal is, but it's there. Any person who finds the need to kill somebody, to else ... it is fascinating. What kind of people are they? If they're living next door to us. can we recognise them?



Morgan Freeman, whose latest film, the American hit Seven, opens in Britain on Friday

weaknesses, by any aberration of what is set up as a normal condition of humanity. But I don't think there is a normal. We force ourselves into the same shoe, but some of us have bunions, corns and blisters. In fact, the normal is what is abnormal."

Having made his mark in Street Smart in 1987, Freeman was inundated with offers to play more pimps. Instead, he took on the role of Michael Keaton's rehab counsellor in Clean and Sober, drawing on

Even 7.30 Mats Thur & Set 3.00

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alcoholic. His liaison with the bottle had been intense, but he kicked the habit with his customary conviction. "I remember waking up

once in my doorway, where I had fallen," he says. "I lay there thinking, 'You're lying face down, drunk. This will never do. So I quit drinking." After Clean and Sober he took on a wide range of roles, landing the lead as a megaphone-wielding high school principal in Lean on Me, then leading dignity and distinction

Hood: Prince of Thieves, Unforgiven and The Shawshank Redemption.

He is, however, best remembered as the kindly, ageing chauffeur Hoke Colburn in Driving Miss Daisy, a part he originated off-Broadway and for which he won his third Obie (the equivalent of a fringe Academy Award). He was tipped for the Oscar itself but was pipped to the podium by Daniel Day-Lewis in My Left

Foot.
"I believed — along with

get the Oscar for Driving Miss Daisy," he says. "But it didn't happen, and my feeling afterwards was that I wasn't supposed to get it - it didn't belong to me. I've got every other award there is except for the Tony, and I was nominated for that."

Min Or

The review of Seven in Variety, the trade paper. would suggest that Freeman could be in line for another Oscar nomination: "That Freeman is a superb actor is no secret, but here he also displays big-time movie star presence in the manner of such greats as Spencer Tracy and

Writing is, but I create nothing 9

screen acting at its best."

already placing advertisements in the trade papers to plug its star for an Oscar, but the actor thinks the whole thing is baloney.

the back from your peers, but if you're going to give a slap on the back, just give it. Otherwise it's so arbitrary - like throwing a dart at a list. You have nothing on which to base best', particularly in acting."

As it turns out, Freeman's views on his craft are equally dismissive. "People like to think of acting as a creative process," he says, "but it's not creative. I create nothing. Nothing. I'm not creating a flesh and blood character, I'm flesh and blood — the work has already been done in the

Notwithstanding all this, he does have a high regard for acting, but I just don't think of it as brain surgery. The hardest part of acting is getting it done. And after that there isn't a hard part. If it's hard, I don't want to do it." He gives a withering stare, to force the truth home: "I don't like doing

But nobody undervalues him more than himself.

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6 Acting is not creative at all.

Gary Cooper, shown in the way he uses pauses, looks and quiet underplaying ... This is The film's distributor is

The idea of 'best' has absolutely no basis in reality," he says. "It may be a slap on

anything hard." Vanity Fair magazine has called Freeman "the most underrated actor in America".

alcoin and

Best of British with an Olympic score to settle



LAW 29, 30

Patrick Stevens takes a satirical look at the legal year



SMALL BUSINESS 32

Sailing to success on a wave of naivety

TELEVISION AND **RADIO** Pages 34, 35

TUESDAY JANUARY 2 1996

Striker inspires thrilling comeback against former club at Anfield

Collymore returns Forest fire

Liverpool . Nottingham Forest. By Keith Pike

THE new year was one day old when the FA Carling Premiership staged a match and excitement, if not technical excellence, may not be bettered in 1996. A packed, vibrant Anfield witnessed great goals, great goal-keeping, embarrassing bluncomeback by their heroes. Liverpool converting a 2-0 deficit into a 4-2 victory with a combination of sustained attacking brilliance and consid-

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erable good fortune. Did Anfield also witness the champions in waiting? Possibly so, probably not, although Kevin Keegan, the manager of



pursuers of Newcastle United are not housed exclusively at champions 11 times and runners-up seven times in the past quarter of a century, are poised seven points behind and just waiting to pounce on

any faitering above them. There was, though, only one story. Stan Collymore would not have won a popularity contest among his Nottingham Forest colleagues even before his messy, mega-money move from the City Ground to Liverpool in the summer. His subsequent attempts to extract a slice of the £8.5 million fee have hardly improved his stock, either. So his contribution to Forest's downfall yesterday was as cious. Collymore creating the two goals with which Robbie Fowler dragged Liverpool lev-

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el by half-time, scoring the third, and forcing an own goal near the death for their fourth.

Forest's defending was, at times, shockingly naive, but Collymore was, in a word, unstoppable. He left the ground in smiling silence, his power and pace having already provided the most elo-

opent testimony to his talents. Not that Frank Clark saw it that way. "We know Stan's a good player, there has never been any doubt about that, but if you give him that sort of room, he will burt you," the Forest manager said. From 2-0 up, we just seemed to take a step back, and from the time Liverpool scored their first goal until half-time, we were an absolute shambles. You

can't give Liverpool goals like that, they will kill you." As Forest, who had failed to

score on 15 of their previous 17 visits to Anfield, raced into a 2-0 lead inside 20 mesmeric minutes, the odds on them finishing heavily beaten were astronomic. They had not managed one goal in any of their preceding ten matches here, so when Woan, at the near post, tapped in McGregor's cross after Forest had ripped Liverpool apart down the right, five minutes after Stone had added to his burgeoning reputation with a splendid strike from 20 yards. they could have been excused for thinking that the job had been done. That was the

problem. Woan fluffed a sim-

ple header to make it 3-0, and Liverpool never looked back. Perhaps for no better reason

than that they had played so badly in the opening stages, Liverpool's passing began to click, and now it was Forest who had their backs to the wall. Relentlessly, Collymore and McManaman were released to stride towards Crossley's goal and, on the half-hour, Collymore's perceptive left-wing cross was headed home deverly at the near post by Fowler.

Liverpool's young pretender had not finished yet. He volleyed a good chance straight at Crossley, who then denied him with the first of three fingertip saves. But nine minutes after his first goal,

Fowler had his twentieth of the season and his seventh in four games, from the same source. Collymore's cross, this time deflected, being met with

a firmer nod of the head. Collymore was now on fire. He volleyed inches wide from 30 yards and when, in the 62nd minute, Crossley and Chettle made a pig's ear of Barnes's hopeful cross, Collymore was there to guide the ball into the empty net behind which Forest supporters, who had goaded and taunted him throughout, were left dumbstruck. For a horrible moment, it seemed as though Collymore would provoke them by celebrating at arm's

length, but he wisely refrained

from over-indulging.

near post, was symptomatic of the paranoia that Forest now felt whenever Collymore had possession. "It was a real team performance," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said to the despair of expectant journalists. "Stan has been called a loner, not a team player, but, in the last three or four games he has proved the opposite. And who said that being in a

Cooper's 87th-minute own

goal, when he sliced

Collymore's cross in at the

minority of one is no fun? MILLOTTLY AT ONCE IS NO TOM:

IMERPOOL (3-2-3-2) D James — J
Scales, S Hortoness, P Babb — J McAteer,
R Jones — M Thomas, J Bames, S
McManeman — R Fowler, S Cottymore
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-5-1) M
Crassley — D Lyttle, Cooper, S Chettle, S
Pearce — S Stone, A I Heatand, C BenWilliams, I Woan, P McGregor (sub: B Roy.
73mn), I K Campbell

Wright gives Robson much to think about

Aston Villa ..

By LOUISE TAYLOR

AT A time of year when most people at least try to look to the future with hope in their hearts, Bryan Robson must wish he could turn Middlesbrough's clock back. Ever since the autumn leaves began falling in earnest, his side have played with a pronounced timp and last night, at a relatively balmy, if rather misty. Riverside Stadium, they were stumbling again. Indeed, Middlesbrough can count themselves fortunate not to have conceded several more goals against a slick-Villa managed by Brian Little, once their reserve team coach.

These days, Little's influence is improving some of his

Results and tables

player's international pros-pects. Alan Wright is being talked about as England's prospective left back for the European championship this year, but, first, Villa's diminutive left back must displace the incumbent, Stuart Pearce. He duly set about proving that he can match Notting ham Forest's captain in the power of his shooting.

Twenty-one minutes had elansed when, at the conclusion of a Villa counter-attack. Charles crossed and Wright volleyed beyond Walsh from the edge of the penalty area. cally, arrived only seconds after Pollock's apparently goalbound shot at the other end had been deflected for a

corner. That represented an isolated Middlesbrough chance that preceded the latest recent concentration lapse in an increasingly self-destructive Middlesbrough defence fast shedding its mean, streetwise reputation. After playing to

several months, several players appear to have regressed

Middlesbrough have now lost their last three league fixtures, shipping seven goals and scoring none in the process. Nots County, whom they visit for an FA Cup-tie on Saturday, must be optimistic.

Bryan Robson, their man ager, must trust that Barmby who possesses an inestimable capacity for bringing out the best in those around him, is soon restored from the treatment table. Moreno, last night's stand-in. is nowhere near Premiership

Juninho, playing much too deep for his or Middlesbrough's benefit, was eclipsed by some superior technique most frequently exhibited by Draper, Yorke and Johnson Johnson it was who put Villa two up five minutes before half-time with a contender for goal of the month, controlling Townsend's centre with his chest before seamlessly swivelling and shooting low into the bottom righthand corner from just inside

the area. Equally satisfying was the preamble to the goal, Little's side making 16 passes as they wended their way forward Previously branded a devotee of the long-ball at Leicester City, Little is now proving a purveyor of some of England's purest football.

There was nothing pure about Pollock's appalling two-footed second-half tackle on Milosevic. How the referee failed at least to book him was a mystery. Shortly after that, Moore, a left winger, replaced Fleming, a liability at left back. How Robson must long for a player like Wright to fill that position, or, even better,

someone like Pearce. MRDDLESBROUGH (5-3-2) G Walsh — N Cox, N Pearson (sub: P Whelan, 73min) S Vickers, C Luddle C Fleming (sub: A Moote, 64) — P Stamp, J Polacik, Jurinto — J Moreno, J Hendrie (sub: C Blackmore, 69)

ASTON VILLA (5-3-2) M Bosnich — G Charles, U Briogri, G Sourigate R Someca, A Wight — M Draper, A Townsend, T Johnson — S Miloseya, D

Referee: M Bodenham

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Malcolm and Fraser recalled by England

FROM ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN CAPE TOWN

THE shadow-boxing is over. England, having failed to master South Africa by stealth and patience, will attempt to snatch the series at the last through a more forthright method. When the final Test begins here today, with the score at 0-0, they will play five specialist bowlers, at least two of whom were privately resigned to their tour being over

Angus Fraser and Devon Malcolm are being released to fly home next weekend, two of five players deemed surplus to requirements for the oneday series, but they have an unexpected opportunity to redeem a disappointing winter today as England finally summon the courage to follow the instincts of their management.

Four quick bowlers and one spinner is the intended attack and the slow bowler is not likely to be Richard Illingworth but Mike Watkinson, Illingworth is suffering from a strained left side and hardly bowled at practice yesterday, so Watkinson is preparing to complete a full house of 17 England players used in the series.

The change of emphasis will promote Jack Russell to No 6 in the batting order, with Robin Smith the latest volunteer to grasp the hot potato at No 3. In this series alone, Mark Ramprakash, John Crawley (deprived by injury before he had even hatted), Graham Thorpe and lason Gallian have all gone in first

wicket down. Gallian's adhesive 28 in Port Elizabeth on Saturday was the highest score from the position but it has

Having arrived here less than a fortnight ago, Gallian will also return home after the match, along with the injured Crawley and Mark

This has been an unsatisfactory series but if it must be decided in one game, there could be no finer setting than Newlands and no better atmo sphere than that promised by daily capacity crowds containing, at a rough count, as many visiting supporters as descended on Barbados two winters ago and turned it into a triumphant little England.

Dozens of tour packages guarantee that almost a quarter of the 23,000 spectators expected each day will be England followers, mostly identified

CAPE TOWN TEAMS. SOUTH AFRICA (from): A C Hudson, G Kirsten, "W J Cronja, D J Cullinan, J N Rnodes, J H Kalia, B M McMillan, †D J Richardson, S M Polick, C R Matthews, A Donald, P R Adams, N Boys SNGLAND (from): "M A Atherico, A J Stewart, R A Smath, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, †R C Russell, D G Cork, M Wednorson, P J Martin, A R C Prasser, D E Malcolm, R K Bingworth, J E R Galilan.

by pink faces, straw hats and the presence as courier of at least one former player. There are probably enough present to put out two additional England sides but it is certain that none ever played for the

purse that is on offer today. South Africa are playing for a bonus of almost £100,000, while if England win the match, and thereby

manager, Raymond Illingworth, who has always been able to count the pennies, grinned cheerfully and confirmed: There is a lot at stake. We won't be going out there thinking of not losing. We want to win it."

And win it they certainly can. The

South Africans have twice failed to enforce winning positions and are looking a shade jumpy about it. England, sensing the moment, are notably confident and the statement they have made with their team selection will do no harm. "I would always like to play five bowlers," Illingworth explained, "but until now we have not been batting well enough

payment offered by Tetley Bitter. The



Malcoim looks forward to resuming his Test career during practice at Newlands yesterday

the series, they will earn £80,000, to justify it. In this situation, we have most of it through an incentive to back our barsmen." Inevitably, the dependence on

Michael Atherton anchoring the

innings will be greater than ever. South Africa freely acknowledge the view that the early dismissal of Atherton is the key to victory. The facts that Smith is in dangerous territory and Thorpe has managed only 105 runs in the series do not inspire confidence but Atherton, having lost three out of four tosses, must this time call correctly to give England the chance to dictate the game with a substantial first innings. Neither Malcolm nor Fraser has bowled in a first-class game since the second Test, a month ago, but the only alternative was Darren Gough, who has had a similar absence and an injury to overcome. The clue to Malcolm's return is the five-man attack. "It is very hard to play him as one of four," Illingworth said, keenly aware that while Malcolm on song can be disruptive, Malcolm off key

can be an embarrassment. The pitch, relaid only last May and still unused at first-class level, already boasts ribbons of cracks, doubtless of interest to Paul Adams and of concern to Atherton. The England captain has unhappy memories of the last Test pitch prepared by the Newlands groundsman, Andy Atkinson, in his previous job at Edgbaston. It was Atherton's first match as captain and all England required was a pitch that did not support Shane Warne. Atkinson's surface turned generously from the first day.

> John Woodcock, page 2i Stewart's role, page 21 Last-ball Bevan, page 21

Dominant Wigan carry off trophy in all but name

By Christopher Irvine

IT IS only right that a championship trophy that Wigan have now won on 17 occasions since it was first awarded to Broughton Rangers in 1902 should reside permanently at Central Park, a potent symbol of the sport's most successful club in a worthy and predictable conclusion to a first century of rugby league.

Eight of those championships have been achieved in a decade of overpowering superiority and professionalism that is embodied by the slight but mercurial figure of Shaun Edwards. The scrum half and captain is the common thread running through the side since the 1980-87 title-winning season broke a 16-year barren

With ten minutes remaining of a game at Wilderspool vesterday that Wigan had comfortably wrapped up, along with an unofficial sev-

enth successive Stones Championship - Leeds's interest is merely notional at this stage -- Edwards waved away calls to take him off. Not on a day he was appointed OBE. In typical riposte to pinpoint kicks, he levered open a hap-less Warrington defence for Va'aiga Tuigamala to plunder

beyond compare throughout the 1900s and Edwards the inspiration at the heart of each success. A sharpness of mind and limb marked him out at an early age, and explained the cloak-and-dagger procedure behind his signing in

|--|

	P	w	D	L	F	A	f
Wigan .	17	15	0	2	708	254	
Leeds	18	13	0	5	504	345	
St Helens	17	10	0	7	606	444	
Halilas	16	10	0	6	374	387	
Shetfield	17	9	0	8	423	456	
Warnnoton	16	7	0	9	380	386	
Bradford	16	7	0	9	350	389	
London B	17	7	0	10	394	455	
Castleloid	17				340		
Oldham	15	4	0	11	268	456	
Workington		2	_		245		

Schofield forces delay to title party plans

destiny of the Stones Championship beyond reasonable doubt. Leeds made sure of a delay in the official presenta-tion by breaking an eight-year losing sequence at St Helens in a 20-14 victory vesterday (Christopher Irvine writes).

Wigan would have to take a spectacular nosedive to throw away the title but the spirit shown at Knowsley Road has encouraged Leeds that they can see out the end of the truncated season unbeaten. Garry Schofield opened the

had kept the home side at bay when he followed Craig Innes

and Carl Hall over in the

his second and third tries. Wigan have been a team

TΑ	BL	E

	P	w	D	L	F	A	P
Wigan .	17	15	0	2	708	254	3
Leeds	18	13	0	5	504	345	2000
St Helens	17	10	0	7	606	444	2
Halilak	16	10	0	6	374	387	2
Shetfield	17	9	0	8	423	456	1
Warmnoton	16	7	0	9	380	386	1
Bradford	16	7	0	9	350	389	1
London B	17	7	0	10	394	455	1
Castlelord					340		1
Oldham	15	4	0	11	268	456	
Workington					245		
				_	_		

HOURS after Wigan put the Leeds account with a try. Indeed, the scrum half was the architect of a nervous victory, as Scott Gibbs added to an earlier touchdown by Karl Hammond. Mick Shaw

> Halifax overcame Bradford Bulls 22-18 in their re-arranged match at Huddersfield and Sheffield Eagles stretched their winning League run in a 42-12 success

his seventeenth birthday. Now 29, there is still no more shrewd or For all that Mike Ford, an old adversary and former team-mate, battled manfully for Warrington in a muddy

and occasionally bloody confrontation, Edwards was exquisite in the second half, even poaching a try and squeezing over a dropped goal.

Receipt by Edwards of an unprecedented eighth champ-ionship-winner's medal, Wigan's £75,000 cheque and custody of the trophy will come later. While Leeds can boast a minute chance, the adornment of cherry-andwhite ribbons must stay in

their wrapping.

However, in a game ruled by the cold doses of reality administered by Wigan, the mathematics of Leeds making up a deficit of 295 points on the leaders in two matches, including a final-day visit to Central Park on January 21, is as near an impossibility as it could be.

To all intents and purposes. the race, such as it was, petered out weeks ago. The transitional centenary season has been a misguided and woefully congested affair. But. as Graeme West, the Wigan coach, pointed out, it remained to be won. There was no shirking in Wigan's approach.

In ringing in the new year with the old, old story, Wigan's celebrations will be necessarily brief. The start of rugby league's challenging second century finds 1996 as the year of fresh horizons, new peaks to be scaled in the move to spring and summer, coupled with the infinitely greater task of measuring up against the best that Australia can offer from its own Super League. Predict-



مكنا من الأصل

The Warrington defence is stretched to the limit as Terry O'Connor tries to burst through

ability, for all Wigan's greatness, makes for a tired script. On the domestic front, there are genuinely exciting developments at Warrington, Bradford and St Helens, which bode well. The threat to Wigan's dominance is still some way off, but seems to be gathering strength.

Wigan, too, are longing to stretch their legs on firmer pitches. Yet, on a soft-crusted top at Wilderspool yesterday, they were still indomitable. Having kept pace until just before half-time, with Ford's vision and Sculthorpe's trickery supplying Forster with a score in reply to Haughton's opening try for the visitors. Warrington lost the plot com-pletely once Tuigamala crashed past Barrow from a well-drilled scrum move.

Warrington. with thoughts drifting to their Regal Trophy semi-final at St Helens on Thursday, raised the white flag as Smyth, Robinson and Edwards raced clear for touchdowns in the space of eight minutes. Barrow replied with one before Edwards's boot and Tuigamala's irre-pressible finishing for his first hat-trick completed another stylish victory.

scuttroppe (sub A Bernett, 33)
WIGAN: G Connolly, J Robinson. V
Tugamala, N Radinson. R Smyth, H Paul
(sub A Craug, 55), S Edwards, N Cowe
(sub K Skeriett, 26 sub M Dermott, 73), M
Hall, T O'Cornor, S Quernell, M Cassidy
(sub A Johnson, 64), S Haughton
Referee; 5 Pressley

England look to McKinney | Croats too strong for France

MUCH will be expected of Ian McKinney in Copenhagen over the next two nights when the 22-year-old playmaker from Sheffield Sharks makes his debut for England (Nicholas Harling writes).

McKinney, a late selection. has the chance of establishing himself in Laszlo Nemeth's squad for the forthcoming European championship ties if he can do for his country what he does so well for his club, the Budweiser League champions, "What we need at international level is a consistent three-point shooter."

Nemeth said, "Others have been tried but have failed. lan could be the answer."

Nemeth is not too concerned that the Danes might reinforce their team in one of the games with two Americans, thus rendering it an unofficial international. "I don't object as. the stronger the opposition, the better it is for us," the England coach said.

Beaten 88-70 by England in the European qualifying tournament at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham last May. Denmark should provide satisfac-

tory opponents this time for England, who will also meet Hungary twice next month before the daunting European championship visit to Moscow on February 28.

Some clubs have been upset by the timing of this week's games, however, hearing in mind a full Budweiser League programme next weekend.

Programmite flext weekend.

BNGLAND: N Austen (London Towers), S
Buchnall (London Towers), A Gardiner (London Towers), R Balter (Leopads), K
Brown (Leopads), I Whyte (Leopads), S
Belter (Bunnigham Bullers), T Gordon (Burmingham Bullers), M Payne (Birmingham Bullers), P Gramger (Manchester Ganris), R Huggins (Sheffield Sharks), I McClanney (Sheffield Sharks), P Scanliebury (Thames Valley Tigers)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL), Anchem 2 Los Angeles 2 (OT) Vancouror 5 Philadel-phia 5 (OT) Boston 5 Winnoes 2 (N) Islanders 5 Burlato 2 Tampa Bay 3 Oriawa 9 Detroit 3 Hartons 2 Caigan, 3 Ni Rangers 1, Chicago 5 Nov Jesses ()

CROATIA. the favourites, made short work of beating France in the Hopman Cup tennis tournament in Perth, yesterday. Iva Majoli and Goran Ivanisevic completed straight-sets victories over Catherine Tanvier and Arnaud Boetsch respectively to seal a 2-0 win for their country in the group A round-

robin match. Ivanisevic took just 72 minutes to clinch his 7-5, 6-4 victory over Boetsch after Majoli had cruised to a comfortable 6-1, 6-2 win, but Ivanisevic's victory came in uncharacteristic style with none of his usual big services

Majoli, playing in the cup for the first time, did not have to exert herself against Tanvier. The Frenchwoman. still recovering from surgery on her right knee, hobbled around the court gingerly throughout the 64-minute match and never looked in contention.

Earlier, the United States. seeded fifth, had produced the first upset of the tournament, beating the highly-fancied South Africans 2-1. Richev

Keneberg bounced back in style to beat Wayne Ferreira. the world No 9, 6-2, 6-2 to bring the match level at 1-1 after his partner. Chanda Rubin, had lost 6-2, 6-4 to Amanda Coetzer in her singles

In the deciding mixed doubles clash, Reneberg and Rubin kept their cool to overcome Ferreira and Coetzer 7-5,

For the first time in eight years, the Hopman Cup has changed format. The early round-robin stages replace a former knockout structure.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Taylor retains title in close-fought final

PHIL TAYLOR beat Dennis Priestley 6-4 to retain the Vernon Pools world championship at Purfleet, Essex, yesterday. In a match that lasted 2hr 13min. Priestley had 15 yesteruay. In a materi that lasted 201 15000 Priestey had 15 maximum 180s against Taylor's ten and also had a better average — of 33.82 points per dart to 32.84. He also had 34 180s during his five matches in the tournament a new

Nevertheless, despite these statistics. Taylor made the vital thrust when he won the fifth set against the darts to go 3-2 up and lead for the first time in the match. It was the only set won against the darts and proved decisive.

☐ The defending champion. Richie Burnett. cruised to a straight-sets win in his opening match at the Embassy world professional championship yesterday. Despite being some way below his best, he beat Wayne Weening, of Australia with some comfort at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley

Vatanen stretches lead

MOTOR RALLYING: Ari Vatanen, of Finland, consolidated his lead after the third stage of the Granada-Dakar rally yesterday. He won the 328km timed section between Oujda and Er Rachidia, Morocco. in his Citroen in 3hr 20min 24sec, almost five minutes clear of Pierre Lartigue, also in a Citroën. That stretched Vatanen's overall lead to 5min 27sec over the second-placed Frenchman.

Humble beginnings

TENNIS: Magnus Larsson, of Sweden. the No 5 seed. gave Sultan Khalfan, 18, a local college student, a lesson in big-time tennis yesterday, overwhelming him 6-0. 6-1 in the first round of the Qatar Open in Doha. Khalfan was awarded a place in the first round after the withdrawal, through injury. of Leander Paes, of India, to become the first man from Qatar to play in an ATP tournament.

Way open for Windows

dows, right, the former Foster Cup winner, resumes hisrivalry with Alex Smith-Bingham, the Etonian, in the Peel Hunt British under-24 championship, which starts today. Windows, the Gloucestershire cricketer, is seeded to meet Smith-Bingham in the final, although he could face tough opposi-tion from Jonathan Larken and Richard Carter.



Laitinen in the wars

SKI JUMPING: Mika Laitinen, the leading Finnish ski jumper, was in a satisfactory condition yesterday after breaking his left collarbone and seven ribs in a spill in practice at Garmisch-Partenkirchen on Sunday. Laitinen, who leads the World Cup standings after winning five of nine events, was taken to hospital after a bad landing in a

Horner claims first

CYCLING: Andrew Horner, 19, of Willingham, Cambridgeshire. Was the first winner of the new year yesterday when he recorded the fastest time in the CC Breckland ten-mile event. held on a course that had to be revised at short notice because of roadworks. He beat the former national champion, Martin Pyne, by six seconds with a time of 22min

Relative success

REAL TENNIS: Peter and Tom Bromwich won the fathers and sons doubles championship at Leamington with an outstanding performance against Bernard and Paul Holland, dropping only one game against highly-rated opponents. Their overwhelming 6-1 victory puts them among the favourites for the national fathers and sons championship next week.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Wild-card round: Green Bay 37 Atlanta 20, Indianapo Irs 35 San Diego 20 NEW ORLEANS: Sugar Bowl. Virginia Tech 28 Texas 10 ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY: Taplow: Civeden races (10km) 1 A Bailey (Akcarshot, Farnham and District) 35mm 1sec. 2. J. Loversedge (Hanngey) 36 09 3 M Bradfield (Datchet Dashers) 37 02 Women: 1, E Wilson (Oregon, US) 36 35 (course record), 2 Z Lowe (SX Albans Stricters) 42*14, 3 C Chastlan (US) 44 30 Veterian: S Ogilvie (Ontord City) 44*35 (AOAD RUNNING: Houilles, France: Men 19 5km) 1, K Shah (Mor) 25mm 50sec, 2 A Passey (58) 26 51, 3 W Ommyo (Kun) 27*08 Women (6:2km) 1, A Worku (Ethi 20*28, 2 R Najel (Fr) 20:28 3, k Hagrave (58 miles) 1, A Guilder (Charmwood) 28 15; 2 R frommogor (North) 28:25, 3 C Blash (Leoester Commanans) 30 40 Veterian: P Hahn (Omegal Over 50: G Astill (Nors) Women, 1, B Stovens (Rechell), 2 A Allen (kinderley); 3, F Cook (March Braza) SAO PAULO. Men (15km), 1, P Tengal

Allen (Ambeney); 3, F Cook (March State); SAO PALILO, Men (15km) 1, P Tengal (ken) 43 12, 2 S Chemwoyo (ken), 44 16 3, M Tanu (ken) 4420, 4, D Ceron (Mor) 427, 5, V C de Luna (Br) 44 30, 6, W Munyol (ken) 44 42 Women (15km) 1, C de Olinozar (Br) 553, 2, R Cherturyot (Fen) 51 33, 3, M del Carmen Diaz (Men) 52 20

CRICKET

WANGANUI. New Zealand: Tour match tone day! Zenbabweans 284-7 (G Flower 79, A Flower 72, C Fraser 3-46), Wanganui 162 (C Fraser 40 not our, 8 Strang 4-15)

CYCLING CYCLO-CROSS: VC Nottingham (Shaw-borry Hills, Ranworth 10 miles) 1, J Gould (Acc RT) the 3mm / 2, R Backburn (Bhadford Olympic RC) at 25sec 3 A hey RIARS) at 55sec Sowerby Bindge CC (Hollans Park, West Yorkshee, 8 miles) 1 Rother Thadray (Bradford Olympic RC) 55 15 2. Richard Thadray (Bradford Olympic RC) at 45sec, 3, A Russell (Heightey Veto) at 2.17

PURFLEET: Vernons Pools world champ-lonship. Final: P Taylor (Eng.) bi D Presitey (Eng.) 6-4 (Engl 6-4 LAVESIDE COUNTRY CLUB Embassy

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of lour)
Perth: Western Austrolia 113-7 dec and
338-8 (1 Moody 59 Langer 56), Victoria 215
and 459-9 dec (M Elbort 135, P Roach 84, D
Jones 70, J Harvey 55 B Hogg 5-125)
Match drawn, Adeleide: South Australia
up, 0 Froat (SA) bit M McCumber (US) 2 and

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Ranger: 1, Chicago 5 New Jerser (in BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Humborside 3 Milton Playner: 3 rebandoned after 20 minutes due to frydrauth of on pre-Slough: 5 Basingstork & First division: Blackburn 18 Billingham I. Brackhrell 10 Swindon 6, Guildford 9 Telford 3 Medrays 2 Chelmstord: 5 Murrayfield: 5 Solahul 7 Paisky: 7 Dumines: 6, Potentorough: 4 Manchester: 11 WORCESTER, Massachusetts: World ju-nior championship: GROUP A: United States 5 Finland 4 Canada 8 Uhiama 1

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REAL TENNIS

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Championship Castletord 12 Sheffield 42 Castletord: Thes: Septiman 2 Goals Crown 2 Sheffield: Thes: Garda Hay Lawres 2, McCallet Scott 2 Stott Goals: Mycce 5 Att 2 472

St Helens 14 Leeds 20 St Helens: Tries: Goos Hammond Goals: Goulding 3 Leeds, Tries, Hall Innes Scholield, Shaw Goals: Holicyd 2 Att. 6 849 Warrington 12 Wigan 41
Warrington; Triesr Barrox, Forster Goals;
Ford Phot Wigan; Tries, Scharts, Roberton Smoth Haughton; Smoth Vizinga
Tuganata 3 Goals; Hall, Pay 5 Dropped
goal; Edwards, Att 5 413
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First division Hull 20 Keighley 12
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Goals Picarson Att 2,226
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POSTPONED: Waterleto's Basics SECOND DIVISION Postponed, Leigh v SKI JUMPING

GARMISCH: World Cup I R Schwarzenbarger (Auchra) 105 5r) and 105 5m) 23 6pts 2 E Predesch (Nori 103 5 105 5) 27 3 J Wespiloo Ger 103 6 105 5) 25 0 4 1 Gotopesjer (Auchra) 104 5, 105 (25 9 5) Archen (Pri) 104 5, 105 (25 4 6 APPLIAN) 25 Fri 105 102 5) 224 I World Cup standings I Millancen (Fri) 678cts 2 Melola 645 3, Abonom 475 **TENNIS**

PERTIT: Hopman Cup Group A: United States 2 South Airca 1 (United States parties fact) C Rybon test to A Coerter 26 34 R Rybons test to A Coerter 26 34 R Rybons test to A Coerter 7-5 6-2 Chaese 3 France 0 Coerter 7-5 6-3 Choans 3 France 0 Coerter 7-5 6-3 Choans 3 France 0 Coerter number of 1 6-2 G transper 6-1 6-2 G transper 6-1 6-2 G transper 6-1 6-2 G transper 6-1 Group B, Switzerland 2 Australia 1 Subtradrad number 5-rot M Hings bit N Bracke 5-7 6-2, 6-3, M Rouser of M Philippouss 6-3 6-3 Rosset and Hings 192 to Professoruss and Bracke 5-7 1-6
ADELADE: Australian man's hamdroust 7 T. A. C. A

TODAY'S FIXTURES LEAGUE OF WALES: First Town v

FOOTBALL Kirs-of: 7:30 unless stated FA Carting Premiership Endsleigh Insurance League Bournemouth v Shrewsbury (7.45) Third division Wigan v Rochdale (7 45) Bell's Scottish League

Premier division Aberdeen / Rarth First division St Mirren v Greenock Morton Second division Queen of South v Berwick Third division

Caledonian Thistle v Ross County (3.0) Cowdenbeath v Livingston P CONTRIDER VIVINGSOM Grays v. Hayes Hitchin v. Sutton United. Fingstoman v. Watton and H. First Indiston Berkhamsted / Barton Rovers (7.45). Tooting and M. v. Stanes, Wolfinghan v. Whytelesle 17.45). Second division: Hampton v. Leatherhead. Cheshunt v. Met Potce Third divisions. Epsom and Evell v. Fingsbury (7.45). Wingste and Firstley v. Claston (7.45). Wingste and Firstley v. Claston (7.45). GREAT MILLS LEAGUE Premier di-GREAT MILLS LEAGUE. Premier di-vision: Mangotsfield v Backwell. Paulton v Basiol Manor Farm UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE:

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Pontinis Central League: First division (7:0) Notungham Forest v birmingham City, Derby v Liverpool, Notis County v Leeds United Sheffield United v Oldham (at Bramail Lane), Sheffield Wedhestay 2 Botton Wandwiers (at Potherham PC) Second division: Covenity City v Huddestifield (7:0) Grimsby v Leosester (7:0) Manchester City v Blackpool (6:45), Mansfield v Aston Villa (7:0) Preston v Hull (7:0)

RUGBY LEAGUE Stones Championship Hull KR v York (7 30) . .

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THE TIMES

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Hick: England's most

IF ENGLAND'S Test series

with South Africa is to be won

and not drawn at Newlands

this week, it is already clear

that it will be fast bowling that

decides the matter, as had

been widely anticipated from

With England likely to play

only five batsmen on what

may be the liveliest pitch of the

series - which is, admittedly,

not saying much - there will

be a special onus on all five of

them to succeed, particularly

the opening pair, who must

hold at bay Allan Donald and

the second innings at Port Elizabeth last week, Michael

Atherton might have wanted

to do this job with someone

other than the man who has

partnered him for much of the

past two years, for Stewart

was woefully in need of runs.

Instead, he spent over 52

hours at the crease to score a

match-saving 81 and give

another lease of life to his Test

Stewart's time in the Eng-

Had Alec Stewart failed in

the outset.

the new ball.

EXMONT IN BRIEF or retains title; e-fought final

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Promoting Hick may be key to ending stalemate

match which starts here today should be being played on one of South Africa's old matting pitches, those which took spin and had plenty of bounce. We would get a result then, and be assured of some lively cricket. As it is, the prospect of the whole series ending in stalemate is obviously a real one. Test matches at Newlands are only won, as a rule, by a tour de force (eg. Johnny Wardle's 12 for 89 in 1956-57, bowling mostly googlies and chinamen) and, with their present attack, there is not a Testplaying country in the world that England could expect,

out twice on a flat pitch. India and Pakistan played 13 successive Tests against each other between December 1952 and November 1978 without getting a result, but that

land side has rarely run

smoothly. There have been

concerns about whether his

technique could cope with

whether he should open or

play in the middle order

DETAILS

ENGLAND V SOUTH AFRICA AT CAPE

SNGLAND VSCUTH AFRICA AT CAPE TOWN: Tests: 15. England won 9, South Atrica 2, drawn 4. Records (England first): Highest lotals: 569-9dec (1938-39), 513-8dec (1930-31), Lowest totals: 92 (1898-99), 35 (1898-99), Highest individual lurings: 187 J B Hobbs (1909-10), 154 A J Pithey (1964-65), Best bowing: 8-11 J Briggs (1888-89), A E Hall 7-63 (1922-23)

as a batsman-wicketkeeper

whether he should inherit the

captaincy; and, since all these

other matters were resolved.

whether he should be dropped

Throughout it all, Stewart

has remained equable, which

is not to say he does not have

altogether.

high-class fast

South Africans fear opener's return to form

Stewart bounces back

in the nick of time

FROM SIMON WILDE IN CAPE TOWN

innings.

from there.

with any confidence, to bowl

was because, when either side lost, it was considered a national disaster. One of the few results between them was to come later on a newly-laid pitch in Karachi, and it could be relevant that today's pitch is a new one. The hope must be that it will give the howlers the help they need to keep a game

moving. South Africa have half a dozen or more lavishly appointed grounds, lacking only the greatest need of all, a fast or interesting pitch. That is like having a handsome frame but a weak pulse, and the condition is certainly not peculiar to this country. There are few grounds in

the world, unfortunately. where one could go today and be sure of finding a pitch to produce an eventful match. especially one between two sides as understandably anx-

scored a Test half-century in 14

"I was not worried at all," he

said. "I was still getting to 30

and 40 and there was no real

reason why I was not going on

have been playing well in

South Africa and got plenty of runs outside the Tests. When

you have played 50 Test matches and are averaging

around 40, you know you can survive at this level." What he

did not say was that the shot to

which he got out in the first

innings was not worthy of a

player with such a back-

Stewart's footwork has long

been the key to his batting.

When it is functioning

town in April 1994, when he

took two centuries off West

Indies, he looks like Fred

Astaire: when it is not, he

looks more like Fred

smoothly, as it did in Bridge

"I knew it would come. I



John Woodcock recalls when South African Tests played on mats produced lively cricket

Cronje's and Michael es in 1995, all against stiff Atherton's.

In the ordinary way, I think, roundsmen are inclined to lay too much stress on producing a pitch to last for five days, feeling perhaps that their renutations depend upon doing so, rather than something more "sporting". The recent Test match at Port Elizabeth would have been a better game had the pitch been a little less well-prepared. We have a groundsman here. though, who is very much his own man, and an overall situation calling for what in the trade is called a result

has as many shots as all of

The curious thing is that,

even though he has not been at

his best for over a year, he has

performed effectively here

against the new ball. When

England were fighting to save

the game in Johannesburg, he

batted for two hours and 40

minutes and, with Atherton.

gave them the sort of start

they needed if they were to

He has taken the brunt of

Donald, too. Until he fell to

him in his first over with the

second new ball on the final

day in Port Elizabeth, Stewart

had not been dismissed by

Donald in the series, even

though the South African has

howled like preased lightning.

bowler in the world," he said,

"and both Michael and myself

reckoned his opening spell at

the Wanderers to be as fast as

any spell we had ever faced."

"I rate him as the fastest

escape.

opposition Australia. West Indies and South Africa), three were won, three lost and seven drawn, and that is not a record to be sniffed at, even if England were more often than not the side under pressure. The outstanding personal achievement of the year had to be Atherian's, not so much for his captainty as for his courage and stamina, almost always under heavy fire. Alone, he held together one England

innings after another. He batted, all told, for 67 hours 8 minutes in Test cricket during 1995 and faced 3.095 balls, a good third of which head, travelling at something over 75mph. These are astonishing figures, the like of which can never have been remotely approached. The man's powers of concentration - in Sir Donald Bradman's

opinion the sine qua non of high scoring - are incredible. But if England are to win this last Test match, they are likely to have to score faster than Atherton does, and the best way of achieving this might be to have Graeme Hick at No 3. Hick is the most powerful batsman in the side at the moment. There are times when, in its hauteur, his play has a strong look of Ted

Dexter's, especially when he is

hooking and driving - and

Dexter was a great player. I was sorry to hear yesterday that England were thinking of playing an extra bowler at the expense of a specialist

England's only chance of winning is on a helpful pitch, and. if they find one of those, four bowlers will be enough and the extra batsman would be useful. I would have Hick at three and Mark Ramprukash at six. At Port Elizabeth, Jason Gallian, going in first wicket down, batted more like a crab than the strokemaker he once

Until not long ago. Newlands was invariably bracketed with the Adelaide Oval as the loveliest of Test grounds. Now it has been concreted, but it has been spaciously and quite graciously done, and the mountain is still there. One's concern today is for the thousands of English supporters who have been placed in a stand unprotected from the midday sun, conditions in which even Africans seek the shade of the trees.

Australia saved by Bevan's last-ball boundary

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MICHAEL BEVAN struck a boundary off the final ball of the game to condemn West Indies to a dramatic onewicket defeat in the World Series Cup match against Australia in Sydney yesterday.

The New South Wales batsman, who will be the Yorkshire vice-captain next scason. hammered Roger Harper, the off spinner, for four off the last hall of a day-night match reduced to 43 overs because of rain. He remained unbeaten on 78 - his highest limitedovers international score - as Australia reached 173 for nine in replay to West Indies' 172 for nine.

Until Bevan's innings. Australia looked set for a crushing defeat to wreck their 100 per cent record in the fourth match after crashing to 38 for six in the sixteenth over.

Bevan, who has yet to be dismissed in four World Series innings, struck six bound-aries in his 59-ball innings and shared in a vital eighth-wicket partnership of 83 with Paul Reiffel, the fast bowler, to lead Australia out of trouble and to within sight of victory. Reiffel, who also captured four wickets for 29, contributed 34.

As the match reached an exciting climax. Glenn McGrath scampered a quick single to give Bevan the strike for the final two deliveries. He failed to score off the first of these balls before charging down the pitch to smash the last delivery to the boundary.

"It was a bit nerve-racking at the end," Bevan said. "We had necded a boundary for a while but the opportunity did not present itself until the last

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, said: "We did not really deserve to win because we were dead and buried at 38 for six but, thanks to Michael. we got home."

West Indies were earlier rescued from 54 for five by an unbeaten innings of 93 in 99 balls from Carl Hooper.

S C Wilherns C Heally in Fests' — S L Compbell tow to Warns F V Simmons o Warns to Reiffel S Chanderpasi o Tsyfor to Portel C L Hooper not out I C Artams of Wayon to Warns R A Harper non out Total (9 wkis) 172
FALL OF WICKETS 1-17, 2-21 5-28, 4-54 5-54, 6-195, 7-150, 8-164 5-168

BOWLING: McGrath 9-2-72-1, Rentel 9-2-29-4, Law 6-0-34-6, Lee 6-9-30-5 Yrams 9-2-30-3, Beran 4-9-31-0 AUSTRALIA MATAylor run out
M J Saier c Simmons t Ambrose
M E Waugh c Harper t Gribcor
R T Forming to Ambrose
S G Law c Browne to Ambrose
M G Bevan no out
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G D McGrath not out
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BOWLING Ambrose 9-9-20-3 Watch 9-2 22-0, Gibson 9-2-40-2, Harper 8-1-38-1 Semmons 5-0-31-1, Hooper 3-0-20-0 Man of the match, M.G. Bevan

Ecres (lb C, ex 3, nb 4) . .

TABLE

Slough rue escaping the weather

IT WAS not a good weekend for the premier division of ice hockey's British League, with only three of six scheduled games completed (Norman de Mesquita writes). On Saturday. Basingstoke Bison failed to get to Sheffield and Durham Wasps' game at Milton Keynes was reduced in status to a challenge fixture because the Wasps had three players away with the Great Britain Under-2i squad.

On Sunday, Humberside

Hawks and Milton Keynes Kings stood 3-3 at the end of the first period, only for the ice-making machine to break down and deposit a quantity of hydraulic oil on the ice and cause the game to be abandoned. In the only premier division fixture that did survive on Sunday, Basingstoke gained their expected victory at Slough Jets, running out 8-5

winners. There was a full first division programme with Blackburn Hawks and Manchester Storm both running up double-figure scores to maintain their hold on the top two

John Haig had five goals and five assists in the Hawks 18-1 demolition of Billingham Bombers, while Hilton Ruggles was involved in six of the Storm's goals in their 11-4 away win over Peterborough Pirates, Telford Tigers, in third place, lost ground, beaten by Guildford Flames.

Flintstone. Perhaps he would strong ideas about his own Furthermore, Stewart's right worth. He denies that he was be better off in the middle index finger, smashed four order with the likes of Thorpe, worried, before the match in times in the past 15 months. Port Elizabeth, that he had not Hick and Smith, because he has stood up to several fierce South Africa

South Africans are fearful TEST AVERAGES

that Stewart's return to the runs may, with Atherton's almost faultiess defence, spell trouble for them in Cape Town. It may well, although as an opening pair they have been surprisingly ineffective. The \$4 they put on last week was their highest first-wicket stand in 20 innings since they took the field in Bridgetown two years ago. In may ways, they are uncomfortable bedfellows. Stewart's star has largely been in decline since Atherton beat him to the captaincy in August 1993 and, in every way, he now has to give second best to his opening partner.
Yet, if he can help his

captain to secure victory for his country at Newlands, Stewart, being Stewart, will be content enough.

Stewart takes a breather during net practice before the decisive Test in Cape Town

Garcia's goal to improve on role of gold reserve he was barely one, leaving his

Russell Garcia has given up counting his international hockey caps. As a callow, star-struck youth, he used to write the details of each one down in a notebook. But no longer. He has neither the time nor a book big enough. "It must be about 185 now," he said on a brief visit back to old haunts in Portsmouth. "I've just lost it, there is so much of it now."

So much indeed. Garcia seems to have been around forever. He actually has 177 caps and is the only member of the 1988 gold medalwinning team still playing internationally. The Seoul survivor was 17 then, 25 now, and yet, in Olympic year, there is still long-running score to be settled.

"In the run-up to Seoul, I was playing every minute of every game. In the tournament, I played the odd 20 minutes here and there. It was understandable. Everyone knew who the starting XI was. So I've got the gold medal, but I would have liked to walk away from the tournament knowing I was an important member of the team."

During the next month, when Great Britain have to endure the peculiar torture of Olympic qualification, Garcia's experience. his calm. unruffled presence in the engineroom, will be critical to a team brimful with talent but lacking the competitive edge. David Whittle, the team manager, who has known Garcia from his schoolboy days, said that he is still waiting for his man to produce his best in a big tournament

"He has balance, good stamina

and his short-passing game is very good, but I think he would be the

first to say that he hasn't really lived

up to his reputation. He has a

against Australia in one match in Pakistan in 1993, and having that gold medal in the bank at an age when most are choosing careers is part of the reputation, living up to it The faintly grudging air with which Garcia accepts the criticism betrays its truth. The World Cup in 1994 was to have marked his grand entrance into the land of the world

class, but he over-trained. "I didn't

sional in everything he does. We just want a bit more needle from him, a

bit more aggression," Whittle said. When winning an England under-21

cap at the age of 15, scoring four

Andrew Longmore on a Great Britain hockey player with a pressing Olympic score to settle

play badly, I just didn't do what I know I can do and they know I can do. I was very safe, no mistakes, but I didn't make things happen." he

The Olympic qualifying tournament, which starts against India on January 19 and involves seven games in 11 days, is the ideal garden

Garcia at training in Portsmouth as the Olympic qualifying tournament looms. Photograph: Julian Herbert

for Garcia's final flowering. The venue is the Polo Barcelona club, a swish, exclusive club for wealthy Catalans, where Garcia plays and coaches and where, by a strange coincidence, he made his international debut at 17.

Arantxa Sánchez Vicario can occasionally be found practising on one of the club's 45 clay courts. Garcia moved from Havani three years ago so that he could devote his life to hockey and, if the only logic to the change was that his surname has distant Spanish origins, the move, say those close to him, has done him good personally and professionally. Garcia was an only child. His

'I don't want to be the king, but it did attract me for someone to say: 'Russell, here's a team, you try to make it play the way you want. At Barcelona, I do the talking, I pick the team. I had to communicate. whereas before I was doing more of the listening." He admires the ways of Johan Cruyff down the road at the Nou Camp. "His teams are based on very simple things - good fitness, good first touch. I'd like to meet In the meantime, Garcia has work

mother, Julie, a county-standard

netball player, to bring up a boy

whose talents were expressed largely

on the hockey field. Jobs as a

and as a rep selling medical sup-

ports were, in Garcia's words, "just not me". He wanted to play hockey

all the time and have a chance,

denied to him at Havant, to give

some substance to his thoughts.

development officer in local schools

to do in the Britain midfield in a tournament notorious for upsets. With five of the eight teams qualifying. Britain should progress and Garcia's belief that the team is better balanced than in Barcelona four years ago augurs well for the year ahead, "It looks easy enough, but it won't be," he said. Then, all being well, it will be on to

Atlanta and further reminders of Olympic glories past. Still the modesty persists. "I'd rather go to the tournament, sit on the bench and win gold than win player of the tournament and finish sixth. I'd love to walk away with another gold and for, this time, people to say: 'Hey. that's Russell Garcia.' But, sometimes, I have to remind myself I

Australia call Jones into squad

AUSTRALIA have recalled Dean Jones from the international cricket wilderness by selecting him in a preliminary 18-man squad for the World Cup next month.

Jones's return to the oneday scene might be brief as Mark Taylor's side prepares for the tournament in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India. The Australia selectors will announce a final squad of 14

players on January 22 and iones, 34, must oust one of the established batsmen. In the World Series tournament against Sri Lanka and West Indies, Australia have looked to Steve and Mark

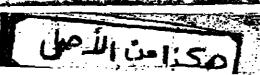
Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Stuart Law, and Michael Bevan to fill the order after Taylor and Michael Slater. The players who miss final

selection for the 14-man squad can be called up if a squad member is injured before the start of the World Cup. Muttiah Muralitharan, the

off spinner who was called for throwing in the recent Test match at Melbourne, has been included in Sri Lanka's preliminary 18-strong squad.

liminary 18-strong squad.

AUSTRALIA SOUAD, M.A. Taylor Keptany, M. Jisekir, M.E. Walong, S. R. Walon, D. M. Jones, M.G. Beran, S.G. Law, R.T. Porturg, S. Lee, G.S. Blewett, I. A. Heay, P. R. Bertid, C. J. McCornich, M. S. Kesprowez, G. D. McCrath, D. W. Ferning, S. K. Walno, T. B. A. Lay, S. H. Law, A. S. Caller, M. S. Martanama, S. T. Jayazzutya, A. P. Gurushiria, H. P. Tilleberanne, S. A. Kalumtharana, H. D. P. Dramtaseng, W. P. U. J. C. Varco, G. P. Wickermesinghe, M. Pull, J. C. Varco, G. P. Wickermesinghe, M. Muzalitharan, E. A. Upashariha, R. S. Kalbago, U. C. Holthurulinghe, C. J. Dunusinghe, U. D. U. Chandena, K. R. Pusingalumana, M. S. Kalpatin,



FOOTBALL

Present and past champions get new year off to inauspicious start

Bore draw leaves nobody satisfied

Blackburn Rovers0

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

IN THE morning. The Raderzky March, that rollicking signature tune of the Habsburg dynasty, rolled once again out of Vienna to usher in the new year. At Elland Road. the conjunction of two fading football empires, empty ceremony, produced a

Truly, this was an appalling match. Neither the fog that swirled over the stadium nor the number of games they have played during the Christmas programme could justify the lamentable standard of football from the champions and the team that won the title as recently as 1992. Elland Road is one of the host grounds for this year's European championship and there could hardly be a more ghastly way to welcome football into an important year for English

The sight of Bohinen, the Norway international Blackburn bought earlier this season to bring craft to their midfield, smashing the ball 70 yards upfield in the final minute. summarised the shapeless nature of the game. In the second half, nothing worth mentioning happened at all. Nothing. Not a pass, not a shot, not a sausage.

There was the usual talk afterwards about closing the season down for a mid-winter break, as if that was practical. Try telling that to actors who must go on stage eight times a down they feel. If they made as many mistakes in a week as the players of Leeds and Blackburn did yesterday in an hour and a half, they might never work again.

"At times," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said, The ball was passed around well." Well, either it was or it wasn't. If it was not passed around sufficiently well, or sufficiently often, it becomes less a matter of tiredness than of skill. Managers cannot have it both ways.

The fact is, both Leeds and Blackburn have shot their bolts. Wilkinson's attempts to



Coleman, left, clears the danger for Blackburn with Yeboah stretching in vain as Leeds put the visitors under pressure at Elland Road

rebuild a team he took to the championship have been unimpressive, while Blackburn rely excessively on one man, exceptional though he is. But even Shearer has dismal afternoons. He had three efforts in the first half, none of them particularly serious, and was so deprived of company after that he might as well have caught the next bus across the Pennines.

Brolin, who is still adjusting to the different character

English football, lasted hour before Wilkinson brought him off, out of pity, probably. The Swede won't have seen anything quite like this in Italy when he played for Parma. While he was active. Brolin wandered along the left side, behind Yeboah and Deane, to no special purpose. He can give the team a lot more than he has revealed so far, but he will not

For Blackburn, Bohinen had a shocker, reluctant to engage in the game in any do it from there.

chance when Jobson, shooting snarled a bit, earning a bookfrom the edge of the area. ing against his old team, until brought a save from Flowers. Holmes replaced him at half-Deane, that ordinary centre time. Coleman did his bit at forward, might have done better with his header when the back, where Ray Harford is making a habit of collecting good-ish defenders. Good-ish fits Blackburn. Champions Kelly whipped in a cross from the right. To be really threatought to be capable of someening, Leeds need McAllister to sing and yesterday he was thing more.

Still, there is always something to savour when a game promises an alliance between Palmer, that prince of central meaningful way. Batty defenders, and Worthington.

مكنامن الأصل

Wilkinson's faithful retainer. Bear those names in mind when people like Ray Harford argue that games like this are "not fair to the paying public" and then ask this question: whose fault is that?

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2)* M Beeney — Kelly, C Palmer, R Jobson, N Worthingto — M Ford, G McAllister, G Speed, T Brol

Newcastle eager to get back on track to title

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAVEL SRNICEK, the Czech Republic and Newcastle United goalkeeper, has two big bounce back from their defeat at Old Trafford before Christmas against Arsenal tonight. "I want to keep a clean sheet and hope the team play with a positive attitude.

"We have tried to put the United game behind us. We realise that everywhere we go. Newcastle. Every game is like a cup-tie. We would like to put it right against Arsenal, although we know it will be difficult. They have a great defensive record away from

Arsenal, still reeling from a I-I home defeat against Wimcentral defenders, Tony Adams, after a stomach upset, and Steve Bould, after

Keegan will be without three key players. Keith Gillespie, the Northern Ireland winger, has been ruled out by a thigh injury, Phillipe Albert, the defender, has suffered a recurrence of a knee injury and John Beresford, the full back, is suspended. Steve Howey, the central defender. is hoping to recover from flu but Warren Barton, the full back, has been struggling with a hamstring strain.

Queens Park Rangers are also hoping to bounce back from an Old Trafford defeat with Daniele Dichio desperate to succeed against Chelsea. The emerging striker scored his eighth goal of the season on Saturday and seems certain to start the London derby. "Cheisea is a big game and

they are our arch-enemies, but it means even more to me." he revealed. "I am a Rangers lad. but a lot of my friends are Chelsea fans. I have got to go out and see them after the game. I can't do that if we get

"It is important to pick ourselves up after a bad Christmas. We didn't play that badly against United, but

we have got to start believing Mark Hateley, the striker. could return to the side after missing the match against United, and Ray Wilkins, the player-manager, might also come into the reckoning after being sidelined by a combina-

ible act

Mark did us a favour and came back earlier than he should have done," Wilkins said. "The foot injury is still there and I thought it best to give him a rest against

tion of flu and a nagging back

Chelsea are likely to keep faith in attack with Paul Furlong, who replaced the suspended Mark Hughes against Liverpool on Saturday, as the Welshman is still serving his ban. Andy Dow will continue at left back if Andy Myers has not recovered from a thigh strain.

Paul McStay will lead Celtic into the Old Firm showdown against Rangers, the Scottish League champions. at Parkhead tomorrow with a rallying call to his team-mates that it is their most crucial match of the season.

And while McStay, the captain, says Celtic have made giant strides in the past 12 months, he desperately wants a new-year win over their greatest rivals after two defeats and one draw in their three meetings so far this

Walter Smith's side are eight points clear of Celtic after the 7-0 hiding of Hibernian on Saturday, but Tommy Burns and company have two matches in hand.

McStay said: "I think it is very crucial — and maybe that is an understatement. It's our home game and we want to go and win it. It will be the side who wants to win it more that takes the three points. The two teams are evenly-matched and I think it is all about determination on the day."

Rangers's last new-year derby defeat came in 1988 when two Frank McAvennie win and later the title.

Everton..

By ALYSON RUDD

EVERTON were irresistible at least for the first half an hour. Had they persevered with their audacious attacking formation, enthusiasm and optimism, the game could have been a classic. Instead. the visitors were relieved to

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, again rejigged the team's formation to exploit the opposition's weaknesses. By starting with four attackers, the message was clearly that Royle thought Wimbledon were vulnerable on home soil. The Wimbledon players must have felt peeved and embarrassed. They certainly behaved meekly, and allowed Everton to take the lead after just 23 seconds.

Ferguson left Perry sprawled on the right wing and pulled the ball back for Rideout. His shot was only parried by Segers. Ebrell shot the loose ball home. Everton pressed harder.

Kanchelskis brought gulps from the Wimbledon defence and Rideout missed several good opportunities. Then, Ferguson scored twice inside a

First, he collected Jackson's cross with his back to goal, just inside the penalty area, turned and volleyed in his first away goal for the Merseyside club. He then made it 3-0, prodding in Unsworth's cross

Royle may have mixed feelings about Ferguson in such good form. If, on January 19.



Ferguson: two goals

Everton fail to wipe out the L2match ban hanging over the recent inmate of Barlinnie prison, then Ferguson will, having already missed five games through his suspension, be out of action for a further seven matches.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of Ferguson's hero's welcome after his jail sen-tence, it is remarkable that he has returned to the Premiership unscathed. Wimbledon did not know how to contain him - at times, he seemed the footballing equivalent of Jonah Lomu, powering through challenges as if they had not

been made.

"It's not the Duncan Ferguson sideshow," Royle said. but he was clearly the pick of many excellent first-half performers. Everton looked capable of scoring with their ankles tied together. Wimbledon behaved as though that was what they required.

Royle said he warned his players that Wimbledon would fight back, and fight they did. Fifteen minutes after the interval, Jones interchanged passes with Leonhardsen and lofted the

ball in to the penalty area for Holdsworth to score.

Ekoku, played through by Earle, slid the ball under Southall and then ran to retrieve the ball from the back of the net. He felt another goal was possible and so did his team-mates.

The Wimbledon supporters left Selhurst Park disgruntled, not just because of the defeat but because the tackle by Watson on Ekoku in the 66th minute felled the former Norwich City striker when he had beaten the offside trap. Watson, sent off on Saturday, was booked this time. Royle admitted that Everton

"just stopped passing the ball around in the second half". Perhaps the manager's warning of the anticipated onslaught actually helped to turn the tables. Unfortunately for Wimbledon, they did not turn far enough.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2) H Segars — K Cunningham (sub J Evell, 99cm) A Reeves, C Pern, A Furble — E Broku, R Earle, D Jones, O Laonharson — M Hanord (sub M Gayle, 46) D Holdsworth EVERTON (4-2-4) N Southall — M Jackson, D Parlonson, D Walson D Unsworth — B Horne, J Ebreti — A Funchelskis (sub A Hinchelfit, 78), D Ferguson, P Richout G Shuarl Referee; A Ville

Manchester City2

West Ham United 1

ALAN BALL'S New Year resolution, in his programme notes, was to make

BY DAVID MADDOCK

Manchester City great again. On this evidence, he should set his sights just a little lower. Avoiding relegation would do. The manager at least had the satisfaction of seeing one of his side's more depressing

managed to score more than one goal in an FA Carling Premiership match for the first time this season. It gave them victory. another rarity. That is hardly enough to allow those connected with Maine Road to continue their festivities of the night before, however. This was an awful match and City won

only because their awfulness

wasn't quite as marked as

statistics disappear. They

The London club had an excuse, of sorts, although it would be unkind and a little unfair to call on it. In goal they

at 17 years, three days the youngest player ever to appear in the Premiership. He performed competently enough. but the painful truth, not least for those who had to endure this match, was that he was given little to do.

He was beaten twice by Quinn, who trebled his league tally for the season. Apart from fielding feeble efforts that barely deserved to be called shots. Finn was never tested.

"It was not the best of performances, I expected us to put their young keeper under far more pressure, but we just had no conviction and played far too deeply." Ball said. reinforcing the suspicion that City will do well to emerge from their position amongst the bottom three.

It was Quinn who translated minimal possession into victory with a goal in either half. The first, following a deep ball from Brightwell flicked on by Rösler, was a fine finish. The second, after 78 minutes, was rather more scrappy, Quinn trundling home a rebound after a game

In between. Dowie had equalised for West Ham when he capitalised on poor marking to convert easily from close range in the 75th minute. It was, though, just about the visiting team's only chance, if you ignore, that is, a Rieper header that was disallowed, rather harshly.

The significance of Quinn's contribution was not lost on the striker, given City's precarious position. "It was important because sides had begun to open up a gap, and we have closed that a little," he said.

As for West Ham, they are far too close to the danger area to turn in many more performances of this ilk. But they were perhaps haunted by defensive uncertainty brought on by the presence of a first year YTS, barely out of school, in goal.

It was a situation that forced Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, to dispense with the usual seasonal niceties. "It is ridiculous, we have first choice keeper Miklosko suspended, and our second. Sealey out with injury. Finn also has an injury and can't kick so I asked the Premier league for permission to bring in a keeper on loan and they declined - ridiculous." he said.

It might just have been better for everyone, especially those with the customary New Year hangover, if he had argued for a postponement. MANCHESTER CITY (4'3-1-2): E Immel — N Summerbee, K Symons, N Curle, I Brightwell — S Lomes, G Filicrott (sub R Kwalund, 57mm) M Brown — G Khriladze — U Rösler (sub M Phillips, 76), N Ounn

WEST HAM UNITED (4-5-1) N Firm — J Harkes, M Rieper, S Poits, J Dicks — R Stater, I Bishop, J Moncur, D Williamson (sub D Hutchison, 66), M Hughes — I

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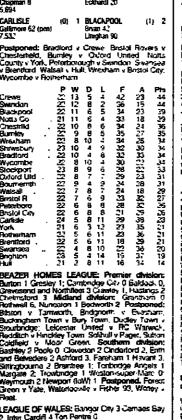
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paraded debutant Neil Finn. of pinball in the box. Quinn: struck twice YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

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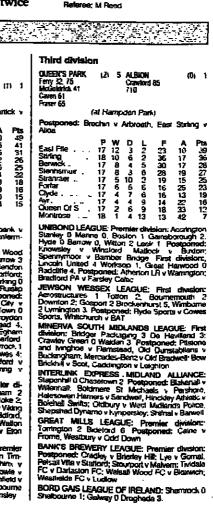
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Sheffield Wednesday 4 Bolton Wanderers .

By Ivo Tennant

DAVID PLEAT would wish to see a mid-season break introduced in the FA Carling Premiership at this time of year. Too many matches, he argues, have had to be postponed because of what has been rather more than a cold snap. Whatever the conditions, however, the teams he puts out for Sheffield Wednesday continue to enthral.

Their victory yesterday, in a match that no defender relished, owed much to his new signing. Darko Kovacevic. The chunky goalscorer, included along with his compatriot, Dejan Stefanovic, scored twice on his home debut, his goals fashioned for him by Chris Waddle.

Kovacevic has come to Hillsborough as slightly the more expensive component in a £45 million package. He and Stefanovic are known. inevitably, not by their surnames, but by their more digestible first names. Darko and Dejan, Yugoslavia inter-nationals both, make for a neat pairing.

Like several of the overseas players who have been brought to England in recent months by managers irked by the absurd fees demanded of home-grown alternatives, the two of them speak little English. This is ultimately no impediment for the gifted player, as Manchester City have found with Georgiou Kinkladze. Initially, though, there are bound to be some

Most of these yesterday were in defence, where Stefanovic was played at left back. It is no exaggeration to say that Bolton should have scored three times in the first 15 minutes, in addition to having what would have been the first goal of the match disallowed for offside. Without Nicol, who has been playing for a while with a hairline fracture of a toe.

sense of discipline. Their strengths reside at the other end of the pitch. In their previous five matches, Wednesday had scored 14 goals. Waddle, for instance, poscorner of goal.

attack. Their defence continyard shot five minutes after half-time. Four minutes later, own goal and Hirst scored with the ensuing penalty kick.

Bolton had no option now but to send their less combuswith inevitable consequences. shortage of opportunity, avertby Taggart and slipped his

shot past Branagan: 4-1. Still Bolton came forward, bring the match to an early finish enveloping their white shirts as they did so. They Taggart. The predatory central defender headed past Pressman. Bolton may well be on their way to the Endsleigh they are going out in style. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-3): K

sadly so lacking in McGinlay's game when two decent chances fell to him in those opening minutes. From a position more central than that in which he made his name. Waddle curled and feathered his passes to anybody pre-pared to run off the ball for

His passes that led to both of Kovacevic's goals were as different as they were a delight. First, after 21 minutes, a ball lifted over Bolton's defence that Hirst centred and Kovacevic - a natural scorer, according to Des Walker needed only to glance past Branagan. Then, just before half-time, the forward was given sufficient space by Wad-dle's beautifully-weighted through-pass to choose his

So much for Wednesday's ued to give some succour to Bolton. Curcic, another Yugo-slav and a lively presence allowed plenty of space in midfield, made it 2-1 with a 25though, that impetus was wasted when Sellars bundled Sinton over too close to his

tible defenders forward -- and The ball continued to be worked from one end of the pitch to the other, rarely in a crude manner. Hirst, given no ed a second attempted tackle

the fog that had threatened to gained one last corner, which Sellars swung across to Insurance League, but at least

Pressmen — I Notan, P Atherion, D Waller,
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Zonth), B Whitinghem, D Hirst,
BOLTON WANDERSERS (4-4-2): K
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Stannard, the Gillingham goalkeeper, maintains a watchful eye on proceedings during the victory at Brisbane Road yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Stannard keeps Liverpool's best in sight

David Powell sees Gillingham

t could never happen in the Gillingham defence, at least not this season, surely? After a series of soft goals on Saturday — gaffes by Schmeichel, Prudhoe, Branagan and Wetherall were all memorable -- one had only to go to Brisbane Road, where Gillingham were playing Leyton Orient yesterday, to see how the job of defending should be done. One match

away from mid-term. Gillingham are on course to break Liverpool's league record, set in 1978-79, of 16 goals conceded in a season. After 22 matches in the Endsleigh Insurance League

third division, Gillingham have let in only seven goals. They have yet to concede more than one in a game, ery 274 minutes.

They have given away less than half as many as Swindon Town, who have the next best defensive record in the four divisions. Some achievement for a back four and goalkeep-er assembled for £15,000. Three of the five arrived on free transfers.

Gillingham nearly did not let in any goals this season. They were nearly not playing at all. In receivership last summer, they tectered on the brink of closure; but, bought by Paul Scally, a Miliwall supporter, the club was saved.

Tony Pulis was appointed manager and, in his first season, has steered the perennial strugglers towards promotion. A 21st-minute header by Leo Fortune-West took them back to the top of the division yesterday. Fortune-West cost £5,000

from Stevenage Borough, but probably Pulis's most inspired summer signing was Jim Stannard, the Gilling ham goalkeeper, a free transfer from Fulham after 13 years at Craven Cottage.

Stannard, at 15st 12lb, is the heaviest player in the league and, while he believes that his

win 1-0 at Leyton Orient and so size may have put many managers off him. Pulis re-

gards it as an asset. "I like goalkeepers who fill the goal and Jim certainly does that." Pulis said. "But, for his size, his reaction saves are first class. He has worked and played as though he has something to prove."
Stannard, 33, said: Ful-

ham wanted me to take a drop in wages, 25 per cent, and, being one of the better players at the club. I did not think I deserved that."

With 15 clean sheets in the league so far. Stannard has designs on John Simpson's club record of 24 in a season. That was 32 years ago, when Gillingham conceded 30 goals, a fourth division record that was never beaten.

close on an impressive record "Hopefully, I can keep it under 20 goals," Stannard said. "You do not expect to have 15 clean sheets in 22

games and the worst defeat

we have had is 1-0. With the

team we have, it can go on for quite a while. We might get

beaten one or two-nil maximum. They say in training that I look big and the goal looks small, that I put a forward off. though it is not all about size. It is about the way you work and approach the game. I do a lot of agility work. 1 am an experienced goalkeeper and i seem to be one step ahead of the forwards at the moment."

As is the back four. Dominic Naylor (left back) and Richard Green (right back) were free-transfer signings.

Tony Butler, a right-sided central defender, signed as an apprentice and Mark Harris, a left-sided central defender. cost £15,000. Only Green and Butler were with Gillingham last season. Pulis believes Butler has

Premiership potential and praised Green for defending the back post so well. "In the lower leagues, a lot more crosses are played into the box." Pulis said, adding that defending the back post was particularly important.

Butler and Harris are footballing central defenders, not merely stoppers, according to Pulis.

Gillingham have played 4-4-2 for most of the season and, with Harris left-footed and Butler right-footed, Pulis attributes much of Gillings ham's success to the balance in defence. Whether they can avoid injuries long enough to sustain a challenge to Liverpool's record - Ray Clemence kept 28 clean sheets that season - may be the key; but the record for the lower divisions of 21 goals conceded in a season, shared by Southampton (1921-22) and Port Vale (1953-54) does look attainable.

Unlike Stannard, Pulis expects at least one team to put a few past Gillingham before the season ends. "We will probably get caught one day." he said. "As a manager, you are always waiting for it to come to an end, and it will come to an end."

But not if Stannard can help it. At Fulham, they would sing: "He's fat, he's round, he's worth a million pounds." Perhaps not quite a million, but more than a free transfer, for sure.

GILLINGHAM (6-4-2): J Stannard - R

Fotune-West
LEYTON ORIENT (4-3-3) R Fearon — D
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Referent Nationals.

Megson talks his way into trouble

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GARY MEGSON, the new Norwich City manager, is likely to face disciplinary action by the Football Association after a run-in with Jim Rushton, the referee, during the 2-1 defeat away to Derby County, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division

leaders, yesterday. Megson, who last month returned to Carrow Road as manager after he had briefly filled the tole as caretaker at the end of last season, was banished from the touchline for the second half as a result of comments he made to the official from Stoke.

The Norwich manager was angry that Rushton ordered Shaun Carey from the pitch with a badly-gashed forehead when his team was already down to ten men after Spencer Prior had been carried off on a

With Norwich then down to nine men. Derby took the lead and that sparked Megson's outburst, "I was upset with the referee and I went to see him at half-time," he said. "I had no qualms with the fact that Carey had to come off to have the wound looked at but what annoyed me was that the referee waited until we were

down to ten men. We were hoping to nurse Carey through to half-time and sort it out then. I was upset with the referee's timing and wanted to know why he couldn't have taken the decision when we had II men on the field.

The referee said he would be reporting me for my comments and didn't feel it was right for me to sit in the dugout for the second half. So I sat behind it and watched the game with the Derby

supporters." Derby won the match in the ninetieth minute with a header by Marco Gabbiadini.

Goals provide rare moments of cheer

Southampton1 BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

for Coventry City or South-ampton, those perennial topflight strugglers, judging by the erratic FA Carling Premiership fare dished up at Highfield Road yesterday. Any supporters with a delicate disposition from the night before would have left substantially the worse for wear, such was the numbing combination of bitter weather and remote prospect of either side mustering anything vaguely resembling cultured football. A slippery, uneven surface did not help, with the ball often behaving irregularly and with few players able to nurse it under sufficient control to make significant head-

way. The absence through

injury of Le Tissier, despite his

miserable mental state of late.

A new year, a new dawn? Not

predictably, was never filled. Oh, for a touch of class. What remained was a

messy series of lost possession, misdirected passes and a long punt forward. Although earnest endeavour was not in short supply, especially in the second half, it was more in desperation to show that at least they meant well, even if they were clearly incapable of carrying it out.
"I had a feeling it would be a

draw," Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, said. "Southampton flood the midfield play a stifling sort of game and hit you on the break. Against that, it's sometimes difficult to get any type of passing game

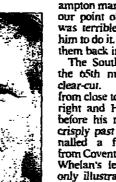
A goal apiece - nice goals, too - will have disguised much of the dross, with Whelan's 84th-minute equaliser produced from a bizarre mixture of intricate skill and good fortune. Latching on to Dublin's flick near the halfrun that took him past numerous flailing Southampton

challenges Time and again, the ball should have been plucked from his grasp but, somehow, he managed to stumble on, almost drunkenly, before planting a low shot past Beasant from close range. It was Whelan's third goal in



Whelan: skill and fortune

after Busst had nodded on



four matches since joining Coventry from Leeds United for £2 million and adequate compensation for an earlier near miss. In the 36th minute, he had headed against a post

Richardson's corner. "It must have looked tremendous for the lad to run all the way through like that." Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, said. "From our point of view, though, it was terrible that we allowed him to do it. It was silly; we let them back in the game."

The Southampton goal, in the 65th minute, was more clear-cut. Neilson crossed from close to the byline on the right and Heaney nipped in before his markers to vollev crisply past Ogrizovic. It sig-nalled a frenzied response from Coventry, culminating in Whelan's leveller, but again only illustrated the all-round lack of technique from the aggressors and defenders. Coventry booted it upfield and Southampton belted it straight

Aptly summing up an occasion preferably left to gather dust in the video archives. Keith Cooper, the Pontypridd referee, blew for time a minute early. After representations from Gordon Strachan, the Coventry assistant manager, and Lew Chatterley. his Southampton counterpart, Cooper agreed to resume for another uneventful two

minutes "All I'll say is, perhaps he should get a new watch," Merringion said wryly. "It makes a change from new glasses," came the witty retort from one of the assembled reporters. It was the best moment of the afternoon.

COVENTRY CITY (4-13-2)* S Cognova: —
A Pickenng, D Bussi, R Shaw, M Had — P
Wittams — P Teller (sub. N Lamptey,
67mm), K Richardson, J Saleto — N
Whitan, D Duckin,
SOUTHAMPTON (4-5-1) D Bessant — A
Nelson, R Hall, K Monkau, S Charllon (sub.
F Bensii, 64) — J Dodd, J Maghton, B
Venson, N Meddison, N Heaney — N
Shaponiers Referee: F Cooper (Pontypridd)

Hibernian ease painful memory

Heart of Midlothian 1

By Kevin McCarra

JUST before kick-off, a Hibernian supporter said: "I'm only staying till it gets to three" attempting to use mordant humour to ward off any repetition of the 7-0 defeat his team had suffered against Rangers on Saturday. In the opening stages of this Edinburgh derby, though, it appeared that the rate at which Hibernian concede goals was

only gathering pace. Heart of Midlothian had the lead within seven minutes and the home side looked then as if their own ability had sunk beneath layers of self-doubt. Accordingly, those who cling to the belief that there is logic. and even justice, in football would have taken deep satisfaction from the way the game subsequently developed. Yesterday at least, skill was to

prove conclusive. Despite the appearance of the score at Ibrox, Hibernian do possess a reasonable amount of the quality. It can be detected in the third-placed Bell's Scottish League premier division position they still hold, despite losing six of their last eight matches before this victory. Hearts, on the other hand, have made progress. after last season's difficulties. just to separate themselves

The experiences of their left back, Neil Pointon, encapsulated the whole afternoon. The veteran, a £30,000 signing from Oldham Athletic, claimed his first goal for the club in his derby match debut. Gradually, however, he was to be revealed as a weakness and Hibernian began to pour resources down his flank.

from the relegation zone.

Yet Hearts, while the going was good, might have left their

clearest opportunities to be missed by Eskilsson. The Swede is big, strong and easer to involve himself in the hurlyburly, but his touch is unreliable. When, after 20 minutes, Robertson held off Hunter and squared to him, his mishin shot trundled wide. Eventually, Hibernian, hav-

found it relatively easy to

fashion chances, only for the

ing survived such scares. began to prosper. In the 23th minute, Pointon could not stop McAllister from reaching the byline and lifting a cross to the near post for Michael O'Neill to mark his return from suspension by heading past Rousset The winning goal was to be provided by another man

much missed by Hibernian in recent weeks. Injury had kept Kevin Harper from starting any of the previous seven games for the club, yet the teenager's vivacity proved unimpaired. Four minutes from the interval. Pointon fouled McAllister and Millen slipped the free kick to Jackson. His angled ball was nudded back across the area to be met with a searing volley from to yards by Harper that ilew past the goalkeeper.

Rousset, however, did manager to intervene frequently in the second half, making remarkable saves from, in particular. McGinlay, Jackson and McAllister as Hibernian's control of the play increased. His athleticism largely prevented the Easter Road side from repairing the goal difference that was so badly damaged on Saturday. Victory over Hearts, all the same, will, as always, prove wholly

acceptable. HIBERNAN (4.4.2) J Legmon — P McGarlay, G Hurter, S Tweed, J Tortotemo — k McAllister, A Millen, D Jackson M O'Nell — Y Wright, K Herper (sub' G Evans,

Scring, Sept. McControl (4-3-3). G Rousset — A McManus, P Bruno, P Riche N Pointon (sub A Lawrence, 84) — G Mackey (sub P Smith, 49) J Millar S Fullon — A Johnston, H Esideson (sub J Colgunour, 58), J Robertson Referee: W Crombio

Travel headaches add to new year hangover

Nick Szczepanik finds supporters of Stockport in

quiet mood on a 500-mile round trip to Brighton

omputers are not normally recognised as having senses of humour but, if they have, then the Football League's must possess an especially wicked one. How else can you explain New Year's Day fixtures that send Cardiff supporters to Preston (for a noon kick-off). Colchester devotees 280 miles to Torquay and supporters of Stockport County on a 500-mile round trip to Brighton?

This is the second successive season that Stockport supporters have had to make the long trip to the south coast at the new year, although last time the game fell on January 2 Yesterday, however, for 30 members of the Stockport Independent Supporters Club, hangovers had to be forgotten or ignored, with an 8.30am start from their favourite hostelry, the Fingerpost Hotel and arrival for pre-match fortification at Brighton Post Office Sports and Social Club 42 hours later.

The award-winning Stockport fanzine is called The Ten Party, but

there was not much tea around, which

was surprising as one might have

expected the previous night's revellers

to have seen enough alcohol to last

got on the coach." There had been, however, one or two heavy heads. Many had not gone home at all. The Fingerpost landlord saw his last guest out at 4.30am and a lot of people did not bother going to sleep, preferring a nap on the coach -

Clint Eastwood videos and a rowdy card school notwithstanding. One younger traveller never made it, being violently travel sick even before he got on, presumably at the very idea of the youldn't regional football be an answer? "Oh, no," was the reply. "We love travelling, seeing new places -

but not New Year's Day, when you

"The computer sends us a long way,

can't see properly anyway."

them at least 24 hours. One supporter

had brought a "hair of the dog" just in

case - a small bottle of poteen.

"Purely medicinal," he said, "but it

wasn't necessary. I went to bed at 3am.

set the alarm, woke up, still drunk, and

but it never puts us in the first division," another said. "Luckily, the team travels quite well."

What I took to be a large family group turned out to be a regular, game-going group of friends. "There are fewer today because of the date and the time." I was told. "But we are part of a group of 50 or so who more or

ome travel to places like the Isle of Man for pre-season tournaments. Do people call them mad? "Oh, yeah," (a chorus). "My dad," added Denise, whose daughter. Katy, nevertheless represents a second generation of travelling supporters and who has benefited from the more educational aspects of visits to cities like York and Oxford.

Their stories of other away trips were full of good humour - like the game when only nine Stockport players made a kick off at Bury - and

sphere between rival supporters, with some exceptions. And yet these loyal supporters follow a club which might be excluded by those chairmen who seek to put their clubs' ambitions before the interests of the second and third divisions — a sobering thought. A pity then, that the game was not up to much. Over-enjoyment of Post Office hospitality meant that we

spoke of a much improved atmo-

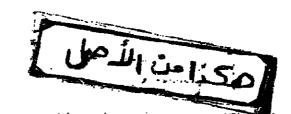
arrived at the ground just in time to see Stockport go a goal down. Brighton followers have a reputation for being quiet, but the visitors managed to match them for 12 or so minutes until an equaliser arrived. Even then, for the most part, there was

a nervous silence. Some comparatively fortunate supporters were based in Brighton itself. "It was a struggle to get up even then," said one. The game, like some of the spectators, barely roused itself but at least they had an excuse. As the referee played injury time, someone shouted:

Come on, we've got a coach to catch."

"So, was it worth it?" I asked a grimfaced man as the whistle blew. "It always is."

rivals with an insurmountable deficit. After taking Johnston's cross. Pointon had driven a raking shot across Leighton to



Crockett is inspiration for Colts' play-off win

stand-in running back, was the surprise package as Indianapolis Colts beat San Diego American Football Conference (AFC) champions, 35-20 in the AFC wild-card game on Sunday night.

Crockett, coming on after Marshall Faulk went off with a bruised knee in the opening period, ran for two touchdowns and 147 yards on 13 carries, setting a Colts postscason record — after a regu-lar season in which he had just one carry and gained no yards. Crockett scored on runs of 33 and 66 yards.

The second touchdown, in the fourth quarter, set a Colts franchise post-season record and was the longest-rushing play by the Colts since Tom Matte's 58-yarder in the 1969 Super Bowl against New York Jets. Crockett, from Florida State, gave the Colts control of a see-saw game and stunned

the crowd at Jack Murphy Stadium with his 66-yard touchdown run with 11min 28sec remaining. Chargers end Leslie O'Neal overran the delay play and Crockett chugged up the middle of the field, picking up a block from Lamont Warren to give the Colts a 28-20 lead.

For his first touchdown run. Crockett made a shambles of a defence noted for its play against the run, going untouched for 33 yards to give the Colts a 14-10 lead with lmin 47sec remaining of the

"Zack was unbelievable," Jim Harbaugh, the Colts quarterback who threw for two touchdowns in the match, said. "It was crazy the way he was running out there. That one 66-yarder was a beautiful thing. You've got to give some credit to our offensive line.

The Colts' first play-off victory in 24 years ended a run of

ZACK CROCKETT. the five play-off game defeats and earned them a trip to Kansas Marchibroda, the Colts coach, said: "After the game was over. I told the guys that we were one of eight teams left and we have two more steps to get to the top of the mountain."

penultimate weekend of the regular season, a game won by San Diego. The Colts employed a zone defense this time after their man-for-man system proved their undoing in the previous meeting. The tactic paid off and Jason Belser, the Colts' safety, said: Our defensive package was just so good. We looked at the

film and made the changes." Earlier. Brett Favre threw for 199 yards and three touchdowns, with Edgar Bennett running for a Green Bay playoff record, as the Packers beat Atlanta Falcons 37-20 in the National Football Conference (NFC) wild-card game.

Favre, who spent his rookie season in Atlanta before being traded to Green Bay in 1992, rallied the Packers to a 27-10 half-time lead after Jeff George gave Atlanta an early lead with a 65-yard touchdown pass to Eric Metcalf.

Favre, who threw an NFCbest 38 touchdowns this year and was named the NFL offensive player of the year. picked apart Atlanta's defence, which yielded an NFL-record 4.751 passing yards, but he had plenty of help. Amid fog and snow flurries in the first half, he completed passes to nine different receivers.

Bennett. Green Bay's first 1,000-vard rusher, rushed 108 vards on 24 carries, improving by three yards the Packers record shared by Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung. The Packers will face the 49ers, the reigning Super Bowl champions, on Saturday in San

PLAY-OFF SCHEDULE: Divisional play-offs: January 8: Pittsburgh v Buffalo, San Francisco v Green Bay January 7: Dallas v Philadelpha, Kansas City v Indianap-offs: January 14: Conference champion-ships: January 28: Super Bowl XXX, Phoeno.



Lane's delight is evident after his lucrative victory in the world championship of golf in Scottsdale, Arizona

Lane reserves his best for last hole

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BARRY LANE enjoyed the biggest payday of his career when he beat David Frost in the final of the Andersen Consulting world championship of golf in Scottsdale. Arizona. His two-up victory

earned him £660,000. Lane, from Berkshire, took a three-hole lead after 25 holes of the 36-hole final of the matchplay event, which carried total prize-money of £2.4 million. But Frost, of South Africa, clawed back to level the match seven holes later. Lane regained the lead with a birdie at the par-four 33rd and sealed victory with a birdie on the

last. The Englishman shot a five-under-par 67 on the first 18 holes of the final, compared with Frost's 71, but was only one up. Lane was credited with an eagle three on the 562-yard 9th after Frost had a bogey and conceded a 15-foot outt.

Another bogey from Frost put Lane two up after 20 holes but Lane missed a four-footer for a birdie on the 21st and, with it, a chance to go three up. The next four holes were halved before Lane finally got to three up when Frost had a bogey at the 25th.

Lane's second shot at the 27th landed in a bunker, and his first attempt from the sand stayed in. Frost made a spectacular chip to save par and Lane's bogey six reduced his lead to two holes.

It was the first of three straight holes in which Lane hit a bunker and found himself putting for par while Frost putted for birdie. Frost parred all three holes. while Lane had to sink an eight-footer to

up. Frost then drew level with a birdie on the 31st hole. Lane regained the lead with a six-foot birdie putt at the 33rd and holed from nine feet on the last green to seal

Frost earned £330,000 as the runner up. while Lane's prize was some consolation for his failure to gain a place in the Europe Ryder Cup team which regained the trophy from the United States in

In the 18-hole match for third place, Mark McCumber, of the United States, won three consecutive holes early on the back nine and beat Masahiro Kuramoto. of Japan, 4 and 3. McCumber earned £230,000 and Kuramoto, whom Lane had defeated two up in the semi-finals,

Challenge gets greater as national event goes global

Mel Webb salutes the remarkable success

of a three-year-old corporate golf tournament

n the short history of The Times MeesPierson Cor-porate Golf Challenge, winning the national title has been enough to keep even the most ambitious of golfing businesses happy. From this year, however, the prize is to become immeasurably greater as the concept of competitive corporate golf goes worklyide.

The World Corporate Golf Challenge, launched this week, is to expand the horizons of the phenomenally successful pioneer competition that has grown so dramatically during its three-year existence

Last year, the Challenge in the British Isles attracted nearly 800 company registrations and almost 50,000 players. which makes it one of the world's leading golf events. It was the first golf competition to be aimed specifically at the business community when it was launched in 1993; it remains unchallengeably the

Imagine, then, the response that is likely in the United States, where an agreement has recently been completed to stage its first Corporate Challenge this year. The winners of that event will play in their national final at the PGA National at West Palm Beach.

The United States Challenge will be staged by a joint venture partnership, the British arm of which is a company that has been established by Mitchell Ellingham Asso-ciates (MEA). MEA is the parent company of Mitchell Marketing Associates (MMA). the firm which conceived the event in the British Isles and which continues to run it on behalf of The Times and MeesPierson, the Dutch-

owned merchant bank. The Challenge has also been taken to Jamaica and Holland, where the versatility of the competition has been clearly demonstrated. In Jamaica. still an emerging country in the field of corporate golf, the event has been considerably smaller, open to entry by subscription but no less successful, while in Holland the template of the British tournament has been adapted to suit local needs and requirements.

"It was obvious from when we started this competition that its flexibility would be the point that would make it suitable for just about any market," John Mitchell, managing director of MMA_said. 'We were confident on day one that, even given major territorial difference, the concept would be capable of adaptation without losing the essence of the competition. The response we have had worldwide underlines that."

Already the event has been taken up on a licensee basis by



as those in India, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. The one constant is the scoring system — four golfers to form the team, at least one from the host company, best two Stableford scores on each hole to count. Everything else is negotiable.

Interest in the Challenge has been expressed by many other countries, and MMA are actively engaged in a search for leading companies in sports event management and public relations to turn a unique concept into reality

The first world final, to be organised by MMA, will be held in February or March of 1997 at one of a host of highquality golfing venues, yet to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge this year will be there, representing company, competition and country.

DISCOVERY DATA: MOST EXPENSIVE SUIT: SPACE SHUTTLE CREW: \$2.4 MILLION **9PM TONIGHT** AND EVERY WEEKDAY



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Source. Ski Club of Great Britain L. lower slopes; U. upper, art. artificial.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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TOTAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES (REDBRIDGE) LTD

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

lar of the above company by the memoral and creditors on 15 December 1995 DATED THIS 21 DAY OF DECEMBER 1995. IN YEE BEGE COURT OF RISTICA CHANGEST DIVISION COMPANIES COURT NO 00965 OF 1995 IN THE MATTER OF RIVENDELL INTERNATIONAL LIARTED AND WITH MATTER OF THE AND BY THE MATTER OF THE
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FLAZE LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that Maurice Raymong
Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton &
Appleby A Charterhouse Square,
London, EC1M SEN was
appointed Liquidation of the said
Company by the members and
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M.R. DORRINGTON, FRPA.
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By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent Retrieving your partner's mistakes is an important part of winning bridge. I missed an opportunity on this hand.

Dealer North East-West game Rubber Bridge

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Contract: Three Spades by South

After two passes. South opened One Spade and North made the unsound response of Two Diamonds. South might well have passed that bid if he had held two small diamonds and slightly worse spades. North's choice over South's One Spade is Two Spades or 2 NT. Over Two Diamonds, South bid Two Spades, and North's raise to Three Spades ended the auction.

As West, I made a lead I normally scorn, a trump. Here, though, the signs were propitious — my poor di-amond holding and declarer's failure to go on to Four Spades rather implied that North-South did not have a diamond fit. Hence, it was possible that South's main chance of nine tricks was based on taking ruffs in dummv.

Declarer won in hand, took the heart finesse, discarded a diamond on the ace of hearts and played a club. East could have put the contract to sleep by rising to

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Lead: Three of Spades

play a second trump - a reasonably obvious play but he played low. I won the ten of clubs with the ace and blew the defence's last chance, continuing with another spade. Declarer won in hand and played a second club. East won and returned a heart; declarer ruffed, ruffed a club and ruffed dummy's last heart. He then cleared trumps and exited with the fourth club, forcing

East to lead a diamond. When I was in with the ace of clubs, I should have led a diamond — to beat the contract. I had to assume that South only had five spades, so it was clear that my partner would still have a trump to play after winning the diamond. Thus, we would have been able to restrict declarer to one club ruff and would have avoided giving him an extra trick via the end-play.

Robert Sheehan writes on

bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday. WORL WEIT JAMES

11 Nxd2

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

After four rounds of the Cente-

Hastings results

ment at Hastings, the lead is held by Bogdan Lalic, with three points, ahead of Stuart Conquest (Great Britain), Al-exander Khalifman (Ger-many) and Matthew Sadler (the British champion). A game of particular fascination for the spectators was the third round clash between Jon Speelman and Tony Miles, two of Britain's top grandmasters. The former chose a quiet opening which he then attempted to convert into an attacking formation. but Miles struck back and Speelman lost on time a pawn down with an exposed king.

White: Jonathan Speelman Black: Tony Miles Hastings Premier December 1995.

Slav Defence Nf6 5 Bd3 6 Oxd3 7 0-0 Nd7 Bxc5 Be7 Rfee g5 b6 h6

deco Rc8 Kg7 Rxc6

Re6

nary International tourna-Re1 Oa1 Oxf6+ Ra1.



Hastings Challengers Having led with three out of three in the Hastings Challengers tournament, Luke McShane, II, met his nemesis in the fourth round when he lost to Vladimir Malaniuk, the

Groningen

Russian grandmaster.

Anatoly Karpov, the Fide champion, has won the Groningen international tournament in Holland, undefeated with 72 out of 11, ahead of Gata Kamsky, on 7. Grandmaster Michael Adams, the British representative, pulled back after a slow start and even defeated Karnsky in the final rounds of the event. ☐ Raymond Keene writes on

chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

BOBACHEE

a. The Indian cuckoo b. A male cook c. A Highland bonnet GOMPA ...

a. A grandfather

b. Semolina bread

DUNNAMANY a. Don't know how many b. A style of whiskers c. A breed of sheep

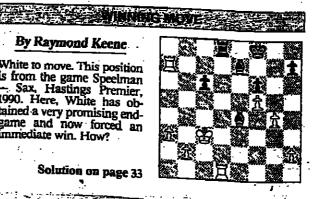
BURSICULATE

a. Unable to decide b. Purse-shaped c. A double-edged sickle Answers on page 33

By Raymond Keene White to move. This position

is from the game Speelman
— Sax, Hastings Premier,
1990. Here, White has obtained a very promising endgame and now forced an immediate win. How?

Solution on page 33





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100 of Jan. 27 # P1 #

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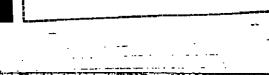
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For more information and a registration form, complete this coupon and return to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL

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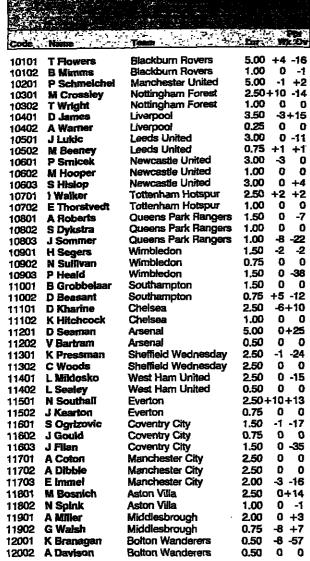
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The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

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22003	J Philips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75 -2 -18
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75 -1 -5
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50 0 +1
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30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers Blackburn Rovers	3.50 0 +3
30102	Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	0.50 +3 -1
30103	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.75 0 0
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	2.50 +3 +3
30105	C Coleman	Manchester United	4.50 -2+10
30201	S Bruce G Palilster	Manchester United	4.50 0+17
30202	G Pakister D May	Manchester United	1.50 +1 -1
30203	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50 +7+17
30301 30302	S Chettie	Nottingham Forest	3.00 +8 +6
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00 0+17
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50 0+21
30403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50 -2 +3
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.002+20
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75 0 +4
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50 +4+12
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3,00 0 +6
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50 0 -1
30505	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00 0 +1
30506	R Jobson	Leeds United	1,50 +2 +2
	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00 0 +4
30601	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00 -1+21
30602	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00 -1+18
30603		Tottenham Hotspur	2.50 +3+16
30701	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	250 +2+13
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75 -1 -3
30703	S Nethercott	LOMBILITATION LICENSE	0.75 0 0

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Ablett found the cost of the top strikers in ITF prohibitive and thought Mark Bright and Ian Rush were better value

Seaman saves Ablett

IT WAS way back in the summer when I picked "The Ninja Warriors". It was the Friday night before the FA Charity Shield and we were in a hotel. "The Ninja" is my nickname at Everton — I have not a clue why. You will have to ask Neville Southall about it: one day about three years ago he called me "The Ninja" and it stuck. They have even put a puppet over my locker.

I was looking at first for a known goalscorer, but then I saw the prices. If you wanted a Shearer, Collymore or Fowler, it was going to cost an arm and a leg and I had decided to spend equal amounts of money throughout the team. My most expensive buy was David Seaman at £5 million. If the rules had been different I would have gone for the whole of the Arsenal back five - that way

you never concede many goals. But the

rules say only two from each club and I

went for Seaman and so far he has earned me more points than anyone else. In midfield my two best buys have been David Ginola and Jim Magilton. When Ginola first signed for Newcastle. Keegan said he should carry a government health warning and I thought. "That will do for me." He is a great player but has not done quite so well since we have had that little cold spell. Hopefully, he will find a rich vein of form

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Queens Park Rangers

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J Kjeldbjerg

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E John:

F Sinclair

D Lee T Adams

S Bould

A Linighar D Walker

S Potts

M Rieper

A Martin

A Whitbread

D Unsworth

D Watson

C Short

D Rennie

D Busst

R Shaw

K Curle

M York

K Symons

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C Tiler

S Vickers

P Whelan

D Whyte A Stubbs

C Fairclough

S Coleman

T Sherwood

S Ripley P Warhurst

M Holmes

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R Giggs

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C Bart-Willia

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40303 i Woan

40305 D Phillips

W McKinlay

G Taggart

A Kernaghar

B Borrows

30802 S Yates

30805 K Ready

30901 A Reeves

30902 A Thorn

30904 C Perry 30905 A Pearce

30903 S Fitzgerald

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Gary Ablett, the Everton full back, explains the

selection of his ITF side This time last season Newcastle blew

up, but they show no sign of doing that again. They are a great side, they are so difficult to break down. They have got pace all round and when they break they are dangerous every time. They have had a few hiccups, but if you can keep winning when you are not playing well, you are not going to be far off winning

As for Jim, I know him from playing in Liverpool reserves; we grew up together. I always knew he was a good player and

ABLETT'S SELECTION £3.5m £2.5m (Shelf Wed) C Waddle

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0 +3

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0 +4

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0 -1 0 0

0+20

0+11

-3+17

-3 -20 0 0

0

0.75 -3+26 0.75 0 -3

5.00 0 0

2.50 +2+25

200 +3+22

2.50 0 +1

1.00 +1 +6

4.00 +3+28

5.50 +5+31

2.50 +6+14

3.00 0+15

2.00 +3+19

0.75 +3+27

0.75 0 +1

3.00 +4+17

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J McAter

G Speed

D White

L Radebe

M Tinkler

A Couzens

D Ginola

L Clark

C Holland

R Elliott

D Anderto

D Howelis

G McMahor

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40604 K Gillespie

40607 S Watson

40703 J Dozzeli

40704 D Caskey

40803 A Impey 40805 T Sinclair

40902 R Earle

40905 N Ardley 40906 P Fear

41003 N Heaney 41005 D Hughes

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41305 K Ingesson

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he is showing it now. Southampton have not had the best of seasons so far but there are only a few points between the teams in the middle of the table and a couple of good wins could see them climbing up the table.
It does not take much to turn it around. Tottenham are not the best side we have

played this season and look where they are. It is always easier looking down on the other clubs than looking up from the

When it came to picking Joe Royle, I had no qualms there. You just have to look at his record since he came to Everton. When he arrived we had taken just eight points from 13 games and then we had two tough matches against Liverpool and Chelsea, We took six out of

I think it was a shame for Mike Walker that Joe Royle inherited the same players and seemed to get more out of them. I am not sure quite why it happens, but sometimes, when a new manager comes along, everyone feels they all start off on the same footing.

The old manager has his favourites, perhaps, the same players every week and the rest feel no hope. But a new manager comes along, everyone is a fresh face to him and suddenly everyone is fighting for their place in the team

6.50 +5+36

2.50 0+21

3.00 +1+29

1.50 +1 +4

4.00 +6+32

4.00 +4+24

2.50 0 +9

0.75 0 0

4.50 +1+26

1.50 +1+23

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4.00 +1 +4

6.00 0+23

1.50 +2+25

3.00 + 2 + 25

250 +8+36

250 +2+22

3.00 +2+27

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R McFarland

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	41412	D Willamson	West Ham United	1.00 0 +
	41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00 0+1
	41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50 +4+1
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	41504	В Нотте	Everton	1,50 +3+1
	41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50 0 +
	41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00 +4+2
	41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50 0 +
	41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00 +8+3
	41601		Coventry City	200 0 +
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		J Salako	Coventry City	2.50 +3+2
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	41704	i Brightweil	Menchester City	1.50 0+1
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	41707	G Kinkadze	Manchester City	1.50 +1+2
		. A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00 0+1
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	41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00 0+2
	41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50 0
	41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50 0+2
	41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00 0+2
	41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00 +1 +
	41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00 0 +
	41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75 0+1
		. J Poliock	Middlesbrough	2.00 +1+2
	41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50 0 +
	41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00 +2+1
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	42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	
		R Sneekes	Bolton Wanderers	1.50 +2 +
	42005	M Patterson	Bolton Wanderers	0.75 0 +
	42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50 0
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50301	B Roy		Nottingham Forest	6.00	-1+
50302	K Campi	beli	Nottingham Forest	2,50	+2+
50303	J Lee		Nottingham Forest	1.50	+4+
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50502	B Deane		Leeds United Leeds United	2.50	+3+
50503	P Masing		Leeds United	1.50	+1
50506	T Brolin		Leeds United	5.00	+4
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50801	K Gallen		Queens Park Range		+1+
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50902	J Goodn		Wimbledon	1.50	+0
50903	M Harfor	nd	Wimbledon	1.00	0
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50907	7 Enell		Wimbledon	1.50	6
51001	M Le Tis		Southampton	8.00	0+
51002	N Shippe		Southempton	2.50	+1+
51003 51004	G Watso		Southampton Southampton	2.00 0.75	0+ 0
51101	M Hughe		Chelsea	4.00	-1+
51102	M Stein		Chelsea	2.50	0 -
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51201	I Wright	_	Arsenal		+5+
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51401	T Cottee		West Ham United	4.50	0+
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51502	D Amoka		Everton	2.00	T0+
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51504 51601	G Stuart D Dublin		Everton Coventry City	2.00	+6+ 0+
51602	P Ndlovu		Coventry City	4.50 4.00	0+
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1901	J Flortott		Middlesbrough	5.00	+1+
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50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50 0 +1
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50201		Manchester United	7.50 +3+20
50202		Manchester United	7.00 +9+28
50203		Manchester United	3.00 +2+16
50204		Manchester United	2.50 0+28
50301		Nottingham Forest	6.00 -1+20
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50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00 +1+53
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50701		Tottenham Hotspur	6.00 +4+45
50702		Tottenham Hotspur	4.00 +2+26
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50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	1.50 +3+22 2.00 +1 +4
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00 +3+26
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50 0+14
50903	M Harford	Wimbledon	1,00 0 +8
50904		Wimbledon	0.75 0 0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75 0 +2
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50 +3+17
50907	J Evell .	Wimbledon	1.50 0 0
51001	M Le Ti ssier	Southampton	8.00 0+17
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50 +1+26
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00 0+14
51004	C Maskell	Southampton	. 0.75 0 0
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4,00 -1+20
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51104	P Furiong	Chelsea	2.50 +1 +5
51201	l Wright	Arsenal	7.50 +5+31
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50 +1+26
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00 0 +8
51204	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	1.50 0 0
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51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50 +1+16
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50 0 +3
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51404	l Dowle	West Ham United	0.75 0+17
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00 +1 +2
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.00 0+17
51503	P Rideout	Evertori	3.00 +2+26
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00 +6+25
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50 0+34
51602 51605	P Ndlovu N Lamptey	Coventry City	4.00 0+19
51606	N Wheian	Coventry City Coventry City	1.00 0 +3 1.50 +3 +9
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50 +1+21
51702	N Quinn	Manchester City	4.00 +1+12
51705	G Creaney	Manchester City	2.50 0 +9
51801	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	4.00 0+32
51803	D Yorke	Aston Villa	3.00 0+31
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50 0+13
51901 51902	J Fjortott J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	5.00 +1+23
51903	P Wilkinson	Middlesbrough Middlesbrough	1.50 +2 +5 1.00 0 0
51904	N Barmby	Middlesbrough	1.00 0 0 4.00 0+26
52001	J McGinlay	Bolton Wanderers	3.00 +4+22
52003	M Paatelainen	Bolton Wanderers	0.75 0 +6
52004	F De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.75 0+18

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Leader's margin reduced to three points as nearest rivals enjoy successful week

Kickers' slip-up helps rivals to close the gap

t had to happen, finally, kevins Kickers, who had L looked to have one hand already on the Interactive Team Football (ITF) prize. have finally reached the end of their hot streak. And with Mr B Bear's Teddy Five enjoying a bumper week, the lead in Interactive Team Football is down to just three points.

Things can change quickly in football and the Kickers' slip-up means the race for the £50,000 first prize is well and truly on. Teddy Five, the team giving hardest chase to the leader, racked up a massive 41 points during the last week to move him up to 354. Mr James, the manager of Kevins Kickers, managed just two points in the same period and moves on to 357. Hot on their heels is Gohils Gods 65, the team of Mr B. Gohil, whose 35 points leave him close behind

The next week of action will be of particular interest and could see the lead change hands for the first time since the early weeks of the competition. The temporary change in Kevins Kickers' fortunes should certainly encourage everyone not to give up pursuit.

With the usual rash of post-Christmas sales, it seems a suitable time to highlight where bargains can be found in ITF. Here is a list of players whose price-tags when the competition began now look decidedly cheap.

Steve Harkness, of Liverpool, and Neil Cox, of Middlesbrough, cost just £0.75 million and have scored 24 and 23points respectively from the full back position. The same price would have bought Cox's team-mates Steve Vickers (26 points) and Nigel Pearson (17 points). Vickers has proved one of the bargain buys of the competition. Im midfield, any of David

Beckham, of Manchester United. Joe Parkinson, of Everton, or Craig Hignett, of Middlesbrough, would have graced your ITF side despite a bargain-hasement value. But value is much harder to find when it comes to purchasing strikers. Jason Lee, of Nottingsenthal, of Tottenham, have if one of your players is

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scored in excess of 20 points while costing £1.5 million. Otherwise, in this area at least, you get what you pay If you want to shop around

for new talent, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and whom you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also ou to adjust your team

actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touchtone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged 58 pence per

minute at all times.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example, a full back for a full back — so that the formation of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defend-ers, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager is maintained.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of The Times, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association. Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Gary Ablett, of Everton, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £5 million on Alan Shearer - but will he do better than other cheaper al-

All matches in the Premier ship and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With the competition now into its full stride, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

□ All queries regarding the transfer system in Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. Inquiries about other aspects of play can be made on

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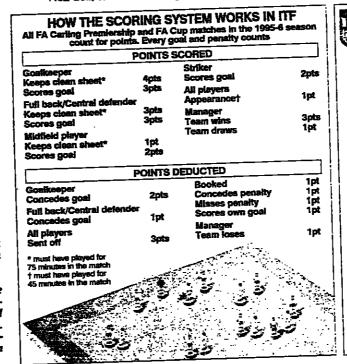
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HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF Call 0891 333 331

Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631 ou can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-but slephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, frich must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' made to the players' to the simple instructions and use the players'

The line is open from 6em on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the lines wi sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the lines wi sunday and from 6pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am. You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example a full back for a full back. When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still fails within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more to two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

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Langton Longshols

Good-Time Boys

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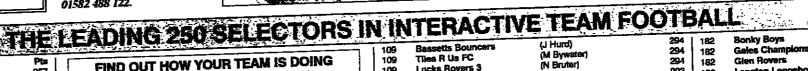
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THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITE

There are no transfers into the ITF game this week OUT



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The Black Knights

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PJB Rovers

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The Cake Eaters

Fair Fair Flapete

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(Mr B Bear) (Mr B Gohil) (P Sutton) (Mr P Johnson (\$ Brewer (K Brown) (Mr D Pat (K R Patel) (M L Jones (Mr S Tye) (Mr P John (Mr P Johnson) (S Brewer) (J Nicholi) Mr A P Jacobu Mr J Donovan (S Murrey) (Mr D Lovell) (C Loxdon) (Mr G Banks) (A Norton) (Mr A Nadison (P Hanna) (I Harrison) (Mr D Clarke) (K Booth) (T Mertin) (C Stacey) G Sutte (PC Harden (J Lees) (A J Philoox) (G Shand) (Mr D J Farmer) (T Vardy) (N Persich) (B Shepherd) /M Priestley (S'Bunn) (R Banham) (J P Barry)

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FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING Call the ITF checkline on 0891 774 796 Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMP) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today Skylights Street FC Razor's Rai 68 68 68 74

(S Bartlett) (R A Knowle (M Armitstead iJ Sutton-Jon (P Parke) (R Read) (S Brewer (E Donald (Mr P Gregoriou) (Mr J R Reader (Mr M D Wallos (Mrs G Keyne rR Jenkinson) (A Pearse) (8 Daly) Mr D Corroy (Mr N Hurst) (D Dunn) (D Shuter) (F Caldwell (A Nelson) (J McCracl (P Callaghan) (Mrs E L Arrov (C Speakman (P Ettridge) rMr B Gohil) (J Richardson (G D Pearce)

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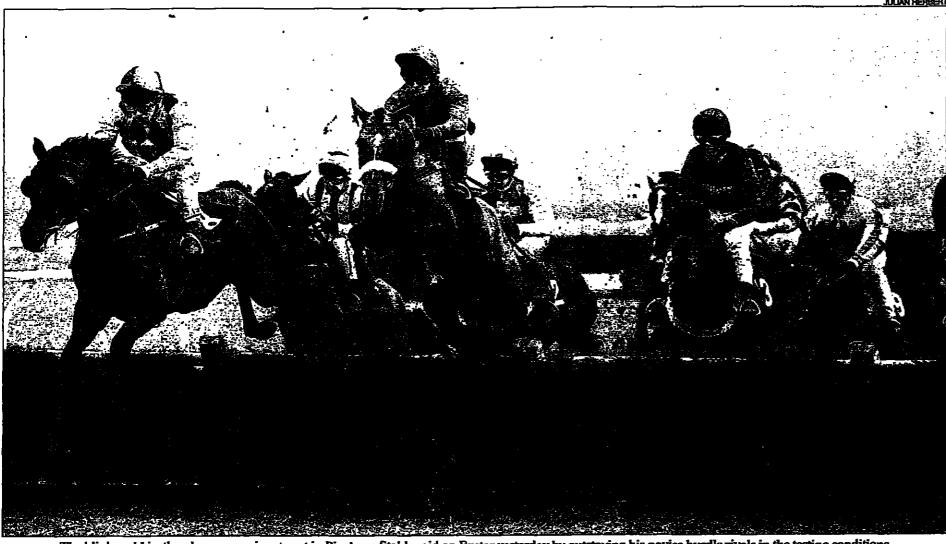
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Exeter shrouded in fog as racing resumes after ten-day break



The blinkered Lisotho plays a prominent part in Pipe's profitable raid on Exeter yesterday by outstaying his novice hurdle rivals in the testing conditions

Pipe's army marches to 129-1 treble

By Richard Evans, racing JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

SWIRLING fog, which verged on the peasouper at times, could not prevent Exeter relaxing the weather's grip on British racing yesterday - and Martin Pipe took full advantage at his favourite course with a 129-1 treble. David Bridgwater rode all three winners.

After a ten-day freeze-up, which not only halted all racing in Britain but also interrupted the training of many horses, fitness mattered more than ever and Pipe's horses clearly enjoyed an edge as Crosa's Delight. Lisotho and Challenger Du Luc won the first three races in testing conditions - before ever-thickening fog forced the cancellation of the final two races on the card.

"It's been a struggle, but we have managed to keep going. We have had tractors on the go all day long and we

today has again fallen victim

to frost. The course failed to

survive an afternoon inspec-

tion yesterday.
Lingfield Park's seven-race

only survivor as Ayr had

already been called off. But the

turf track at Lingfield, where

there is National Hunt racing

scheduled tomorrow, is frozen

team through the bad weather. Fitness counts," the five-times champion trainer said, adding: "Hats off to Devon and a happy new year to

The determination of Exeter's racecourse officials to see racing go ahead in difficult conditions was the perfect pick-me-up for a decent-sized crowd which braved the elements, although spectators gained only the occasional glimpse of action

As the horses walked around the parade ring before the second race. the fog cleared sufficiently to allow a clear view of the home straight. By the time the horses had galloped to the start, the fog had descended to reduce visibility to little more than 50 yards and yet, when the leaders came round the final turn, all was clear again — briefly.

In truth, the conditions were distinctly similar to a New Year's

tion will be made this morn-

ing. There will be a noon

inspection at Musselburgh.

where it is also hoped to stage

The frost is out of the track

management is confident that

all-weather racing can go ahead. Prospects for later in

the week look brighter with

temperatures forecast to rise.

racing tomorrow.

everything was a haze, interrupted occasionally and unexpectedly by a brief spell of normality, only for the gloom to descend once again.

To give an accurate account of how individual horses ran and jumped would require the powers of Mystic

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: IRON N GOLD

(2.00 Lingfield Park) Next best: Duke Valentino (3.00 Lingfield Park)

Meg. After Crosa's Delight emerged from the fog to win the opening seller, even Pipe allowed himself a tongue-in-cheek joke. "Always going well,"

Those brave ante-post punters who have forced the Nicky Hendersonof the day trained Our Kris to favouritism for performance. He will be entered for

the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival will take comfort from gears," Pipe enthused.

As for Feel The Power, Kim Bailey the victory of Lisotho, a former French-trained horse, in the wellcontested Thurlestone Hotel One Hundred Juvenile Novices' Hurdle. On his only other British start, at Newbury in November, he was

beaten out of sight by Our Kris.

However, the feature race of the afternoon saw the chasing debut of the highly regarded Feel The Power in the Win With The Tote Novices' Chase. With the fog timing its descent to cause maximum annoyance, only three of the 17 fences jumped could be

seen by spectators. Apparently jumping well at the head of the field. Fell The Power's stamina was found wanting over a trip just short of three miles and Challenger Du Luc booked his entry for the Sun Alliance Chase with a comfortable 12-length success. "It was a hot contest and a very good

this trip. This horse has got some

reported: "The trip was too far for him. On fast ground, three miles would be all right but on that going he wants 2½ miles."

Bailey intends being double-handed in the King George VI Tripleprint Chase on Saturday. Book Of Music pleased when he worked yesterday morning and will join Master Oats in the Sandown line-up. However, rid-ing plans remain fluid and hinge heavily on the availability of Jamie Osborne and Graham Bradley.

On a seasonal note, there was insufficient room in the stables for Jackie Retter's four runners, but Purbeck Cavalier overcame spending the day in a lorry to win the Richard Thomasson 21st Birthday Celebration Novices' Handican Hurdle and provide the local trainer with her first

Cabochon, Sabalu River, Veryvel, 25 Smug-gler's Point (f), 33 Hoatile Waness (f), Summarhill Special 17 ran NR Most Equal, 41, 20, 41, 31, 61, N Thomson at Shefterbury, Tota: \$17.60; £3.10, £4.50, £2.60, £1.50. DF: £189.50. Trice £457.40. CSF: £125.17. Tricast: £1,099.68. Jackpot: not won (pool of £29,308.24 carried forward to Lingfield today). Placepot: £240.30. Quadpot £25,20. E374 85 Tricast 25,436.32.
2.50 (2m 2! hdfs) 1, LUCKY BLUE (J F Trisy, 14-1); 2, Sohrab (C Meude, 8-1); 3, Castougold (D Bridgwater, 10-1); 4, Keep Me in Mind (D Styrme, 8-1) ALSO RAN-4-1 fav Punder Bay (8th), 11-2 Celfloate, 7 Dino Metta, 9 Pampered Guest, 14 Balanak, 16 Teen Jay, 20 Angelo's Double (5th),

BLINKERED FIRST TRACE: There are I horses blinkered for the first time today

Leaning towards Festival with Pisa expedition

Trainer Charlie Brooks tells why he is treading the same path as Vincent O'Brien

There is nothing new about sending horses to winter in Pisa. Vinatest trainer to study the thoroughbred racehorse. embarked on an historical mission during the winter of 1967-68 to condition Sir Ivor to win the 1968 2,000 Guinas and Derby.

Preceded by an excursion the winter before. O'Brien trusted one of his greatest talents to Pisa. It was a bold decision to commit such a prospect to relatively unknown territory.

Sir Ivor's stay in Pisa went mainly according to plan. A minor foot problem necessitated the attention of his blacksmith from Tipperary, but a greater potential problem was the local army base. As Sir Ivor returned from work one day, a helicopter popped up from behind a hedge, causing him to dive into a drainage ditch and deposit his work rider. Vincent Rossiter

The logistics of such a journey in those days cannot have been easy. O'Brien sent out a team of six horses in December 1967 to stay until the end of February 1968.

Rossiter, who is now Tommy Stack's head man, recalled: "We took our own oals and feed supplements but used the local hay in Pisa. The majority of the work was steady but we did plenty of half-speed work-outs. We did run a few in France on the way home. While they came out of their races well, they all needed the run."

That was helpful advice for our Italian expedition. Having stayed with Duncan and Candy Sasse, who were training in Pisa at the time, in 1991, I decided that one day I would prepare some horses there for the Cheltenham Festival. So

why now, and why anyway? Padre Mio has had a successful but long campaign this summer winning in Ireland, France and England. He is a quirky horse who needs to be trest. His last two races suggested that he has become jaded and a cold English winter is not what he needs. Couldnt Be Better has

done us proud this season by winning the Edward Hanmer and the Hennessy Gold Cup, but he has a tendency to break blood vessels. The problem gets worse as the season goes on. It could be that high blood pressure, which is combated in humans by getting the individual to relax, is one

lungs to bleed during inten

Couldnt Be Better is quite an excitable animal and removing him from his normal training environment may be beneficial. Sasse also assured me that low grade respiratory viruses were not the norm in Pisa, as they are in Britain. That would be another good reason for sending him to the sea air. Breaking the seasonal cycle

had to be worth trying.
Horses, like athletes, clearly feel the benefit of training when the muscles are warm. The lack of hucold, damp feeling. Hopefully, the temperature could be 15 to 20C higher than in

England.
No doubt there will be problems. Already, we have been told that Couldnt Be Better will not be allowed to canter in the afternoons. The training area is in the grounds of the President of



Brooks: Italian venture

Italy and he doesn't like his siesta being disturbed. Luckily, they change their presidents quite often so the next one may relent.

The training ground in

Pisa is a beautiful park adjoining the beach. Miles of sand capters and a turf racecourse make up the facilities.

Hopefully, our training plan will deliver both horses back in England, three weeks before the restival, the right shape. The plan is to build up steady conditioning work over the seven weeks, leaving time for three weeks of cardio-vascular work in Lambourn.

Will Tony McKeon, in charge of the expedition, ring with the temperature every morning, only for us to find it's colder in Pisa than Lambourn? Will the transport cost of approxi-mately £1,500 prove a com-plete waste? Will I be fired at the end of the season? There factor that causes horses' is only one way to find out.

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Cheltenham off again

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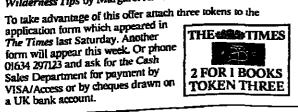
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application form which appeared in The Times last Saturday. Another form will appear this week. Or phone 01634 297123 and ask for the Cash Sales Department for payment by VISA/Access or by cheques drawn on



LINGFIELD PARK

12.30 Red Spectacle 1.00 Plein Gaz 1.30 Apartments Abroad

Going: soft 12.45 (2m 2t indie) 1, CRIOSA'S DELIGHT (D Bridgweise: 9-4 tax); 2, Palace Parade (S Fox, 12-1); 3, Allahrakha (A P McCoy, 8-1); 4, Mr Playfall (J Frost, 11-2), ALSO RAN, 10 Old Money, Whitebonnel, 11 Mildrad Sopha, 12 Virtage Red, 14 Soul Trader, Take A Flyer (f), 16 Commanche Creek (Sth), 20 Baybetine, 33 Galbert, Sandro, 50 Daves Delight, Plum Fancy, Sabete (Sth), 65 An Buchall Liath 18 ran, 394, 114, 94, 24, 201 M Pipe at Welfrigton, Tote: 23 30; £1,10, £7,40, £7,00, £1,10 DF; £32,10 Trio £191,90, CSF £31,12, Tricast £199,12, 11, 15 CM Sthothal LiaSOTH-O (D Bridgweise.

1.15 (2m 21 rolle) 1. LISOTHO (D Bridgwaler, 9-1); 2, Ocean Hawk (C Lievellyn, 7-1); 3, Spariding Yasmin (Pour Hotob, 1-2) ALSO RAN 3-1 lav (Ricoria Bey, 9-2 Zabadi (5th), 7 Mim-Lou-And, 9 Faustino, Out Ranking (4th),

2.00 lkhtiraa 2.30 KAAFIH HOMM (nap) 3,00 Prizefighter 3,30 Royal Circus

20 Zingiber (6th), 25 Salep (pul), 33 Brockton Light, Rosevear (pul), 50 Cashiflow Criss (f), 66 Against The Clock (pul), Just By Chance (pul) 15 ran, 34, 13, 4, 8, 7, 1 M Pipe at Wellington, Toter (12.50; 13.30, 53.00, 22.00 DF 168 00 Fine, 169.30, CSF, 574.38 1,45 (2m 71 110yd ch) 1, CHALLENGER DU LUC (D Bridgmans, 3-1), 2, Feel The Power (J Osborne, 9-4 lay), 3, Sorrel Hist (M A Rittgerald, 14-1) ALSO RAN: 4 Hebridean (f), 11-2 Bells Life (4th), 7 Gillian Cove, 25 Cool Clown (pul), 33 Mellion Pride (f), Solo Gent (pul, 93 Mellion Pride (f), Solo Gent (pul, 93 Mellion Pride (f), Solo Gent (pul, 93 Mellion Pride (f), 50 dest Wonder (5th), 100 Jimmy's Fancy, Maremme Gale (pul, 13 man 13, dest, 2th), 20, dest MPipe at Wellington, Toter (53.30; 21.80, £1.90, £1.80 DF: 28 Ball, Trice, 52.30 CSF, §10.12, 2.15 (2m 21 hole) 1, PURBECK CAVALUER (c)

2.15 (2m 2tholis) 1, PURBECK CAVALLER (A P McCoy, 10-1); 2, Lyphard's Fable (R Johnson, 50-1); 3, Hullo Mary Doll (Chris

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 ANISTOP. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.00 KIND OF LIGHT (nap), 1.30 Hotlips Houlihan. 2.30 Kaafih Homm.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-8432 6000 TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) 9 Hall 9-10-6 B West (4) 88 Racecard number Dow in brackets. Six-figure form (F — lett. P — pulled up. U — executed fider B — brought down, S — slipped up R — refused D — disqualified). Horse's name Days since last outing, J d jumps, F lt flat. (B — blinkers, V — wassr H — flood E — Eyestheid, C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD course and distance women BF — beater towords in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — Birm, good to Birm, bard. G — good S — solt, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW. 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.30 SHELLEY HANDICAP (Div 1: £2,373: 2m) (9 numers)

BETTING: 11-4 Red Spectacle, 7-2 Wolteshernbles, 9-2 Rose Ol Glenk, 5-7 Captern Manustate, 7-1 Forest Star. 8-1 Sophile May 10-1 On So Handy, 12-1 others.

1995; ARIAN SPIRIT 4-8-1 [] R McCabe (4-1) W Messon (1) rac FORM FOCUS

CAPTAIN MARMALADE 91 6th of 13 to Suiden Son in handicap at Wohenhampton (Im 11 100)₄. In handicap at Wohenhampton (Im 11 100)₄. In handicap at Wohenhampton (Im 11 100)₄. In Superior 1993, OH SO HARRY 7% 15th of 13 control 10 in a 7-minter claimer at Southwell (Im 81. AW) penulumate stant. RED SPECTACLE least Nacionalo 2% Im a 7-minter bandicap at Redcar (Im 81. good to it first). Superior (2m 21, good to it first). RED SPECTACLE (Im 81. AW) penulumate stant. RED SPECTACLE least Nacionalo 2% Im a 7-minter bandicap at Redcar (Im 81. good to it first). Selection: RED SPECTACLE

1.00 TENNYSON CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,075: 51) (9 runners) 201 (4) 016202- PLEIN GAZ 19 (0.8F.5) LI PURE A 18-07-07-12-3, (7) 131 (5) trailets)
202 (1) 13- ROBO OF LIGHT 24 (G) rules 8 Mailed R Gaset 4-0 ... J Train 95
203 (3) 003133- CHARTERHOUSE XPRES 15 (B), CS M McCourteck 6-13 ... R Cochrane 96
204 (7) 205 (6) 125-61- G LA HIGH 15 (CD, G) (8) Galany J Berry 8-4 P P Marghy (5) ...
205 (6) 125-61- G LA HIGH 15 (CD, G) (8) Galany J Berry 8-4 G Cactor (8)
206 (5) 000450- COPPER BERSHT 105 (V) (6 Selboy) P Hastern 8-1 M Belled (5) 72
207 (8) 060600- JENSELVERTHORN 15 (V) (7 Troom) P Shotges 8-1 G Bandwell 90
208 (9) 0500- HI HOH 31 (Maustheet Vestures) N Littmoden 7-11 ... C Adamston (5) 75
209 (2) 00400- ZHON PRINCESS 80 (E George) J O'Donogius 7-10 ... N Variety (3) 74
BETTING: 11-4 Kand Of Light, 7-2 Piele Gaz 4-1 Chapterhouse Kints G La High, 5-1 Convent Gotst, 8-1 Copper Bright, 16-7 Jennsferstroom, 20-1 others.

1995: BABLEYS SUMSET 8-3 T Williams (1000-301) M Johnston 8 rae FORM FOCUS

PLENT GAZ 31/si 2nd of 12 to Ultra Barley in claimar here (71, AW) with JEMSILVERTHORN (86 better off) 97/si 12 Soot in conditions need 1 3/si of 7 to Le Soot in conditions need 1 Molverhampton (71, AW).

Wolverhampton (71, AW).

CHARTERPHOLES WPRES much and 21 3rd of 12 in Wystel Max to nursery at Southwell (51 AW) with (51.

1.30 WORDSWORTH LIMITED STAKES (3-Y-0: £2,786: 1m) (10 runners)

BETTING: 5-2 Apartments Abroad. 5-1 SPEadise, Tales Note, 6-1 Suparoy, 7-1 Money Up, Be My Etnil, 8-1 others

1996: BATTLESHIP BRUCE 9-0 L Deltari (1-3 tor) N Callaghan 8 ran FORM FOCUS

BBLADDRE 6951 696 of 9 to Village Notive is maiden auction at Folicestone (61, good to firm).
TAKE NOTE 111 48 of 9 to Accusationy-Junel in maiden auction bere (AW, 71). APASTIMENTS ABROAD best Sherango bead in 9-namer course and distance maiden with SUPARDY (31b bette oil)
Selection: APASTIMENTS ABROAD

2.00 SHELLEY HANDICAP (DIV II: £2,373: 2m) (8 runners)

1895: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION FORM FOCUS

RGTTRAA 31/1 2nd of 14 to Anjov or a hardicap over course and distance with COLERIDGE (20) better oils about 25 6th and RELINGAVE (36) better oil) about 51/4 100th. COLERIDGE best Microsotti by an a 5-more hardicap over course and distance penultimate start IRON N GOLD neck 2nd of 11 to

2.30 KEATS HANDICAP (£3,884: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

BETTING: 7-2 Xsofth Horam, 4-1 Celestial Choir, 5-1 Anistop, 6-1 Tribut Pence, 6-1 Dancing Lanyer, 1 Speeches, 10-1 Access Advanturer, 12-1 others. 1995: 1996(GUEST 4-8-13). Descri (7-2) P Boss & ran FORM FOCUS

DANCING LAWYER best Nessers 214 in a 9numer handscap here (AIX, 101) perulibrate start.

CELESTIAL CHOIR 61 2nd of 12 to Lyterd Law in
Bandscap at Weberhampton (AIX, 101) (Olyth) perutilities start. KAAFIN NIGNet head 2nd of 7 to
Remove in annalization of course and defiance with

NO SPECINES (2th better off) 1141 3nd. TRIBAL

Selection: (AAFIN HOMM)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Res 97 42 40 40 203 94 TRAINERS **JOCKEYS** Afiss J Feikket J Wegver Afiss Dame Jones R Cochrane Amanta Sanders R Lappin J Berry K McAcliffe N Graham Mass G Kellenon M Johnston N Callagham 11. 205 19 225 41 24 27.3 23.4 21.1 15.6 14.6 12.5

3.00 COLERIDGE HANDICAP

(£3,796: 1m) (12 runners) BETTING: 7-2 Date: Valentino, 4-1 Prizeligitar, 5-1 Golden Pound, Bentico, 7-1 Robellion, 8-1 Our Stades, 12-1 Jackstack, 14-1 others.

1995: KINDLEGAD KIID 6-7-7 D Wright (13-2) R logitam 12 rao-

FORM FOCUS

DURE VALENTINO best Sand Star 164 is a 16-runser bandicap here (AW, 71) with BENTICO (Bib better off) 61 bit, GOLDEN POUND best effort lest sesses when head 2nd of 5 to Stravening in modelen at Ripon (Im., good to famil, PRIZERGET-ER best Wissbary's Bigli 1154 in 11-14/mg hand-cap over course and detained with JACKATACK ish bester ofth 61 Bis. cap over course, and distance with JACKATACK (1870 better off) 61 8th. . . ROBELLION 31 4th of 13 to Four OI Spanies in

handicap here (AW, 70). CLR SHADES 3%1 5h of 10 to Robo Magic in handicap here (AW, 6) with TAFAH-HUS (4M better off) 13%1 6h.
LABLOD respectable 2ht 3rd of 7 to Amesome Power in bandicap here (AW, 1m 2) GENERAL SHELLY about 6 55 hd 7 to 51 Aresto in rated status here (AW, 1m 2) on penulturale start in March 18st year.
Selection: DUKE VALENTINO

3.30 SHAKESPEARE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£3,218: 1m 5f) (14 runners)

(6) 315000- DURT I UNIXT RUBBIOS 34 (*)-LOC (*) property of transmit at the control of the control

FORM FOCUS

SHAARD, record Molecul Hunt retemer, about 1141
4th of 15 to Knaysen Dawn in ameteur riders' tending at Policular Can II 11494, good in 2mm on penulimente Parl start. PSTOUS AT OUNN'S beat Poursible 16 in an 11-ameter ameteur riders' head-parl Wolvenbampken (AW, 1m 4) with STALLED beat loader and beat of 3 and next 4th, STALLED beat loaders and beat of 3 and next 4th, STALLED beat loaders and a 13-ameter ameteur riders' sead shakes here (AW, 1m 4) with SCHISKY (1586 better oil) 1544 6th and CLIRCK MILLION (11th better oil) 2441 7th.

Columnia in a previous handless of 1 and 1

Sandown bonus

FRUSTRATED Champion Hurdle contenders have been handed another opportunity to go through their paces by the transfer of the Bonusprint Limited Handicap Hurdle from the abandoned Cheltenham meeting to the Sandown fixture on Saturday. The race will be run at 11.55.



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Counselling for counsel

Should the professionals in traumatic trials also be offered extra help, asks

David Conn

mmediately Rosemary West was convicted of ten horrific murders in November, the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) announced that it would be offering counselling to the jury. If the trial had distressed them, the jurors were told, they could make use of a freephone helpline, consult their GPs or, for the first time, see the department's own wel-

Only days after the offer was made to the West jury, it was accepted; the jurors coming together for a group session with the LCD welfare officers. The department would not comment further on the nature of the session, but Cary Cooper, Professor of Psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, and an expert on stress, explained that short "debriefings" are increasingly common after traumatic

Counsellors explain that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can have a delayed genesis; symptoms may erupt suddenly long after the trau-matic "event". People are encouraged not to bottle up their feelings and are advised where to seek help if symptoms

Lawyers applauded the LCD's enlightened approach. Sacha Wass, junior counsel for Mrs West, said she sympathised with the jury, confronted with extremely disturbing material. John Nutting, QC, senior prosecutor at the Old Bailey, though not directly involved with the case, said: "I'm not surprised that the poor jury has to ask for counselling."

Yet among this admirable concern on the part of the

January



The trauma of hearing evidence such as that given in the Rosemary West trial can affect people for years

lawyers and the faint trace of self-congratulation by the LCD, psychologists were saying that the process should have gone further, to include the lawyers and the judge as well. "Why was the jury sin-gled out?" asked Professor Cooper. "Everybody involved in the case should have some form of help. Lawyers may be more used to dealing with such matters — but they are stili human beings."

Neither the Bar Council nor the Law Society provides counselling facilities. Judges, nominally LCD employees, can consult the welfare officers, but a spokesman knew of no cases in which they had.

lead prosecuting counsel, took a few days off after the trial but was returning, according to his clerk, to "a full diary". Richard Ferguson, QC, Rosemary West's lead counsel, began another trial on November 28, five days after the West trial, defending a man accused of attempting to murder a policeman. And Ms Wass is drafting the grounds for West's planned appeal.

The judge, Mr Justice
Mantell, following his sentencing of one of the worst mass murderers in history, was trying Gurman v Allied

was claiming compensation for a bad back he claimed had been caused at work. Professor Cooper considers the absence of counselling facilities to be potentially very harmful, especially in the legal profession which, he argues, is not characterised by an open-

ness about emotion.

Mills, in which Mr Gurman

"Nobody is immune," he said. "PTSD can be triggered by something personal. A case of child murder, for example, can cause distress to a parent of small children. It may not manifest itself until months later. Someone may suddenly feel anxious or irritable or depressed, and they do not relate it to work they did months ago. The purpose of initial counselling is to get it out at the beginning.

David Richards, principal welfare adviser to the Gloucestershire Constabulary, which

carried out the West murder investigation, confirmed that some police officers involved with the West case had been counselled. In some police canteens, he said, counselling still carried a stigma; but this ride counselling.

The lawyers' exposure to the West case and the celiar of death at 25 Cronwell Street was, if anything, more detailed than the jury's. An agreement between prosecu-tion and defence had kept some of the worst material from the jury.

Ms Wass commented: "Criminal cases can be harrowing when they involve rape, murder or child abuse. This one concerned multiple instances of all of them." Everybody, she reflected, had different ways of coping with stress. In her case, within the bounds of confidentiality, she did feel able to talk to colleagues. "I believe," she said, "the Bar is a more supportive profession than you might think."

But Mr Nutting did not think barristers felt comfort-

able discussing personal distress with colleagues, for fear of it being seen as weakness. He had always found it easy to "shut the book" after a case, and was "not convinced" that the Bar Council should pro-

To many versed in psychology, such an attitude is unre-alistic. Professor Cooper pointed out that unrelieved stress can manifest itself in many ways, in alcoholism, depression: even financial problems. "By suggesting counselling you're not telling people that they can't cope," he aid. "You're informing them of the possibility they may have problems later."

Despite the LCD's enlight ened recognition that counselling may help to prevent such problems, there remains a blind pride in the robustness of the legal profession.

The West jurors were dis-charged and told they need never experience such an ordeal in court again. The lawyers had no such freedom; they continued their career. and a long exposure to human

Innocent or guilty, it's luck of the law

DAVID

PANNICK QC

justice which regulate what we may or may not do to each other and to ourselves. In fact, the law is, to a surprisingly large extent, a game of chance determined by good fortune as much as by good judgment, occasionally influenced, as the school of American realists taught in the 1930s, by what the judge had for breakfast.

In some courts, as accurate a prediction of the outcome may be obtained from Mystic Meg as from a study of Halsbury's Laws of England. This can be frustrating for those who think they have a strong case, reassuring for those who have been advised that they are in the wrong, and exciting for those who have

no stake in the outcome.

For those lawyers and judges who cannot

tolerate being deprived for the duration of the Christmas vacation of the potent combination of law and chance supplied by courts up and down the land. Spear's Games has produced an enter-taining substitute, You be the Judge: The Game of Real Life Court Dramas (£16.99).

Two players, or two teams of players, take it in turns to read from one of 500 cards, each of which describes in about 100 words the central elements of a civil or criminal court case from one of a number of jurisdictions around the world. The opposing player, or team, then has to give the verdict for or against the litigant identified on the card. If you judge the case correctly — that is, if you supply the verdict which was

given by the relevant court, and is printed on the back of the card — then you may throw the dice to determine how many moves you travel around the board to the winning post.

You be the Judge may not live up to the claim in the promotional material that it is "the game that'll make you flip your wig". But if played after a large, festive lunch, and the consumption of generous quantities of alcohol, the game certainly bears more than a passing resemblance to proceedings in many courts of law.

Judgment is pronounced on the basis of limited information (the cards frequently tell participants less than they need to know about the facts, the governing law and the date of the case, and sometimes we are not even informed in which country the litigation occurred); the proceedings involve noisy disagreements between all those in court; the verdict of those performing the role of judge is more often wrong than right; the judgment contains

hen they take themselves too seriously, lawyers and judges like to pretend that the legal system is based on objective principles of law and it is likely to provoke bad-tempered expressions of astonishment, with accusations of gross incompetence or worse — at least, if the response of my family of two barristers and three barrackroom lawyer children is typical.

Most of the cases described on the cards are

exotic specimens that would not normally be encountered in the course of judicial duties. Was Anne entitled to change the locks to exclude her spouse, Seamus, from their apartment because he had not bathed or changed his clothes for weeks? Did a Hawaii court rule in favour of a woman who sued her astrologer for the return of the fees she had paid him when none of his predictions came true? Was a human cannonball entitled to damages from a local TV station when it videotaped and broadcast one of his performances

without his permission? The Lord Chancellor's Department is unlikely to abandon the training conferences organised by the Judicial Studies Board and substitute regular sessions in which trainee judges are encouraged to play this board game.

The legal system frowns on any overt link between law and chance. In fiction, Rabelais's Judge Bridlegoose decided cases by throwing dice. But those judges and juries who have sought to imitate that example have been reprimanded for undermining public confidence that legal answers depend on evidence and

In 1677, a verdict was set aside and the jury was fined because, being unable to agree, it

had cast lots to decide the case. In 1737, the members of another jury were ordered to at-tend before the court "to be publicly admonished, that the country may take warning after they decided their verdict "by hustling half-pence in a hat". A Manhattan criminal court judge was barred from office by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct in 1983 for deciding the length of a prison sentence on the toss of a coin.

In a 1964 decision in the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Diplock asserted that a judge "must not spin a coin" to decide a case. For lawyers conducting a little vacation business. different rules apply. Despite its imperfec-tions, You be the Judge is an excellent late Christmas, or Chanukah, present for any lawyer or judge from assistant recorder to law lord, even those who think that the law has nothing to do with luck, good or bad.

• The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souis College, Oxford.

The annual award for Lawyer's

Understatement of the Year is

given to Leo Goatley, the solicitor

of Frederick West's wife, who said: "She did know he was a rascal. He

hours of one of our trainee's time."

Patrick Stevens offers a month-by-month guide to some of the real and surreal events that marked out 1995

That was the year that nearly was

was not an angel by any means, and he used to get into trouble in one way or another over the years.' women's keruge (advice on now to minimise tax on overseas earn-The judge who brought his dog to court, prompting complaints from ings). Boating for the Disabled (advice on ship mortgages) and the National Trust (advice on demolitone litigant that the beast's snoring interrupted the case, starts a trend. ion of listed buildings). Judges find it convenient to bring

April
The Law Society warms solicitors their pets to court rather than leaving them at home to make against being involved in fraud. "It's easy to get sucked into it," says messes on the carpet. Barristers try to curry favour by bringing poop a spokesman. The fraudsters offer enormous fees for very little work scoops to court and showing interest in the judge's hamster. and it is very tempting." A clarification is issued after most solicitors City solicitors each donate £5,000 think the Law Society is referring to worth of legal work to worthy estate agencies. causes. A spokesman says: "This

means a charity can have up to five To stop sexual harassment of female applicants for pupillage, the Society. Banned terms include: Lucky recipients include Haringey



Bar issues a code of conduct, forbidding pupilmasters from offering sex in return for pupillages. Solicitors also move to improve standards after unprecedented slanging matches in the elections for president of the Law

commie lover "Termagant" is allowed after research shows that the majority of solicitors think it is a kind of

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, accepts a judge's explanation that he did not take cannabis or cocaine before, during or after sex with two prostitutes. The consensus (of judges and those who wish to become one) is that such behaviour, though unacceptable in a magistrate, does not disentitle a judge from trying

October The Lord Chancellor agrees to have on the ground that he bore the

building disputes.

a Leguluk ou a Rin mat fold will say gives cohabiting couples the same rights as married ones. The Daily Telegraph worries about the prospect of "politically correct judges" and what they might get up to with the new legislation. One solicitor comments: "We're not guaranteed legally correct judges. so a politically correct one would be

a definite advantage." Matthew McCloy, a solicitor who practises in Newbury and is also chairman of the British Horseracing Board, was "restrained" with plastic handcuffs after helping himself to an extra drink on a transatlantic flight. This was followed by his arrest at JFK airport

same name (though pres not the same appearance) as a Jamaican wanted by the police. Airlines have anxiously reviewed their policies regarding lawyers and inflight drinks, "They're used to doing as they are told and they only have to read the slogan 'Drink



man. The problem is that if the plane carries enough drink for them, there is insufficient fuel to get

Canada Dry' and they start at the

departure lounge," said a spokes-

After dentists decide to call them-

serves "Doctor", inc sion has to decide what its members shall be called. Barristers reject "Your Beatitude" as being difficult for some clients to master and settle for "Your Lordship." Solicitors go for the traditional option of "Yo" for senior solicitors while newly qualified solicitors will be addressed as before with the phrase, "Big Mac and fries,

After the Maxwell jury gets three weeks holiday for Christmas, other juries seek similar privileges. Trials around the country grind to a halt as juries demand hampers and a Christmas bonus.

British lawyers working in Paris showed the Dunkirk spirit when a series of strikes against the Government brought most of France to a standstill

How to survive during the French revolution

mal for those British Alawyers based in Paris who have been suffering the effects of weeks of French strikes. They are now recovering from shutdowns in transport and the post, and upsets in other sectors, all of which disrupted the daily manage-

ment of lawyers' offices. When the stoppages started, it did not take long for British lawyers to adjust to these straitened circumstances. Harvey Chalmers, the local man-aging partner of Simmons & the evening, in order to beat the lack of public transport

Simmons, says: "The Dunkirk and the car jams on the roads. spirit soon surfaced. We may have had our backs to the wall, but we coped wonderfully." One firm, Norton Rose, is

producing a commemorative sweatshirt for those who saw active service in its Paris office during the strikes. Two other English law firms have been boasting of the dedication of their secretaries, who were walking for four hours in the morning to reach the office, and four hours back home in

The effects of the strikes on the practical management of offices such as Clifford Chance and Simmons & Simmons was considerable. One firm reckoned that it had cost almost £8,000 in extra expenses for overnight hotel stays and taxi fares. Post office strikes and the transport shutdowns meant that no cheques were

going out. Yet most firms doing international transactions managed to maintain their normal

coming in — and no invoices

were unaffected by the strikes and their continued use meant that the lawyers' international clients could still receive written communications - and that France Telecom earned a lot of money.

Banking lawyers went to

meetings by bicycle rather than by taxi, and the wheels of high finance continued to turn. Work hours were shifted. For example, the day did not start until llam and ended later in order to avoid the worst of the traffic jams.

STEUART & FRANCIS

of the earthquake, many lawyers "commuted" from home computer to networked offices. But in Paris, very few British lawyers based there have adapted to that way of working.

Mr Chalmers says: "We've

been considering the possibility of linking up lawyers' homes to the office for some time, but have not got around to doing it. The strikes, however, have made us think about it more urgently."

those firms doing mainstream commercial work, such as Fidal, the legal arm of the accountants KPMG. With about 1,000 lawyers, of whom a quarter are based in Paris, it is the largest law firm in



Workers protest against cuts proposed by Alain Juppe, the French Prime Minister, below

ONEEN'S CONNIET & ARGN'T YOU GLAD I DRAGGED WINT IT BREMHTAKING? YOU AWAY FROM THE LAW FOR A WEEK, DARLING?







Deborah Clark, a partner at Norton Rose, says that the tional mergers and acquisitions lawyer with Fidal. During the strikes, many of volume of work accomplished actually increased because colleagues were arriving earlier her overseas visitors were and leaving later. But, she forced to cancel their trips to adds: "I have to say that I see Paris and deals were stalled as no effect on business confipeople could not get to meetdence in France. I specialise in ings. She says: "Many of our clients had a lot of practical international asset finance and there is no indication that problems on their minds this work has been affected." because of the strikes, and Harder hit, perhaps, were

therefore deferred visits to their lawyers." Her view is that the strikes could be bad for the French economy in the short term as investments are held back. The real issue, for her, is whether the Government can implement its reforms, includ-

Kristin Defert is an interna-

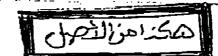
ing changes to employment law. "If the Prime Minister is successful," she says, "France will become more attractive for overseas investors."

Klein-Goddard is the French wing of Theodore Goddard. Jean-Yves Martin, a partner in the French firm. says the strikes were 'not perceived as a problem by the business community.

However, French people in general are not forming opinions until they know whether the unions, after their negotiations with Alain Juppe, the Prime Minister, will decide to strike again this month.

EDWARD FENNELL







Consider your verdict

That happens when magistrates retire to decide a case? Every magistrates' court has a "retiring room". No. it's not somewhere where pensioned-off JPs browse quietly among dusty papers, but a room in which lay magistrates consider their verdict and/or sentence. (Stipendiary magistrates have their own rooms.) They do this without assistance. although they may ask the clerk to give them advice on the law. Anart from this, the clerk takes no part in

the decision-making.

After the defendant has pleaded "Not guilty" and prosecution and defence evidence has been heard, it is neither practicable nor desirable for magistrates to discuss the pros and cons of the evidence in open court. Hence the use of the retiring room, where privacy is ensured. Such is the importance attached to this privacy that every effort is made to ensure that only one bench of magistrates is in the room at any one time: ie. there is never any cross-input between different benches. Even royalty is excluded from the retiring room, as one royal visitor found out when he was announces the verdict. No indicapolitely told during an official visit to a court that he couldn't "listen in" to a bench discussing a case that he

had been following in court. When the three magistrates reach the retiring room, the chairman will, without indicating any

How do magistrates reach a verdict? Derek Edmunds talks out of court

'structured

decision

process'

view on the guilt or innocence of the defendant, ask the least experienced magistrate whether, on the evidence, he or she finds the case proved" or "not proved": whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty. After the other magistrate has given his view, the chairman will

give his. If the views are unanimous, the magistrates return to the court to announce the verdict. If, however, the three views are not unanimous, a more detailed study of the evidence will be made: all three magistrates discuss the evidence they have heard. If the verdict is still split 2:1 after this dis-

cussion, and the chairman considers that further discussion will not change this, that is how it is left. The magistrates then return to the court, where the chairman

tion of whether or not the verdict is unanimous is ever given. If the verdict is "Guilty", then the magistrates will be given details of any previous convictions. The magistrates will, however, ignore

"old" convictions and "irrelevant"

convictions. For example, if the defendant has been found guilty of assaulting a police officer, a previ-ous conviction for, say, speeding would be ignored because it is not a violent" offence.

The Bench may then retire a second time to consider the punishment. The Magistrates' Association issues guidelines giving The JPs will entry points" for most offences; for example. then start a

custody for assaulting a police officer; a fine for careless driving. This time, therefore, discussion in the retiring room will centre on the appropriateness of the "entry point" pun-ishment, which can be

modified for many reasons; eg. first offence/long conviction record or offence committed on impulse/premeditated. As before, the chairman will lead his colleagues through a "structured decision process" which will review the available punishment options.

At the top end of the scale are those sentences that "restrict personal freedom", such as a custodial (prison) sentence or a Community Service Order (CSO), under which

the defendant works for the community. At the bottom end is an absolute discharge, whereby the magistrates agree that no punish-

ment is necessary. Between the two

limits lies a punishment that is appropriate to the offence, which may, of course, be modified by mitigating circumstances", such as when the defendant has expressed remorse, or has pleaded "Guilty" at the earliest opportunity.
Should a prison sentence or CSO

be considered appropriate, the magistrates will almost certainly ask for a pre-sentence report (PSR). If that happens, the case will be adjourned for the probation service to prepare the PSR. When it is received, a final visit to the retiring room will be made to consider its contents and decide the punishment. If requested by them, the same bench of magistrates can deal with this, but the court rota system usually means that a different bench passes sentence.

Hearing the case in open court is only one part of the judicial process: an objective and unbiased discussion of the evidence presented by both sides is essential if a correct verdict is to be reached by magistrates, and a fair punishment imposed. The retiring room enables such a discussion to be carried out by magistrates in complete privacy, with the freedom of expression and independent thought that such privacy brings.

Is client-chasing for civil cases costing the taxpayer too much?

artyn Day's objection to the Lord Chancellor's, Lord Woolf's and the Legal Aid Board's belated attempts to control the expenditure of civil legal aid (see "A Win for the Goliaths?", The Times, December 5, 1995) fits like a glove with his and his firm, Leigh Day & Co's propential to a propentia sity to campaign and litigate, often at the British taxpayers' expense.

That Mr Day and his colleagues feel that their approach is for their clients' and the public good is be-yond question. Whether or not they and other plaintiffs' solicitors, some of whom are more robust than Leigh Day & Co in seeking out clients, are blinkered in their clients' and their own professional and fin-ancial causes is worthy of debate.

What motivates law firms to seek out personal injury claimants and even, in some cases (but not Leigh Day's), to buy the names of accident victims from middlemen? Is it really irrefutable in an era of Citizens Advice Bureaux, neighbourhood law centres and a press keen to expose injustice and to encourage redress, that there is a large group of potential claimants who but for campaigning lawyers would not recognise their right to pursue claims? Can they owe a duty to clients whom they do not yet have? Are they wholly uninfluenced by the business benefits to them of multi-plaintiff litigation funded by the public purse?

This shopping for clients whose causes are often paid for by the British taxpayer is not confined to these shores. Richard Meeran, a partner in Leigh Day & Co, has also complained about his firm's failure to persuade the English courts that it should be permitted, with the benefit of English legal aid, to run an expensive claim against a UK headquartered multinational corporation arising out of an accident suffered by a Scot while resident

and working in Namibia. Leigh Day & Co is not alone in seeking to run claims for foreigners who might nevertheless qualify for legal aid support to pursue cases in the English courts. Freeth Cart-wright, one of the leading law firms in tranquilliser litigation in Eng-land, tried — in vain — to run several individual claims by New Zealanders on the basis that legal aid for such claims was not available to them in their own

country. Leigh Day & Co. as one of the very best of specialist plaintiffs' law firms, has enjoyed many notable successes, but to claim, as Mr Day does, that the "failed on all counts" group action, brought on behalf of childhood leukaemia victims around the Sellafield nuclear plant, has been a triumph for British

Who loses in the legal aid stakes?



Lord Woolf: belated attempt to control costs of civil justice

justice in giving the weaponry to the Davids to take on the corporate Goliaths, breathtakingly overlooks the fact that the hopes of the claimants and their families were raised and dashed, using immense amounts of public money. No mention, of course, of the justice of those claims having been refused by an experienced judge after all the available evidence had been

To suggest that the estimated £30 million of taxpayers' money spent on tranquilliser litigation is acceptable simply because not all group actions succeed, glosses over the question of whether that and other unsuccessful actions should have been run at all or withdrawn sooner. Certainly, no regard app-ears to have been paid to the report published in May 1994 by the Legal Aid Board distancing itself from any blame over the millions in public funds spent on funding the 13,000 tranquilliser claims that were subsequently found not to be

worth pursuing.

The board pointed its finger at our civil justice system and procedures (as if neither it nor the solicitors it was funding appreciated the obstacle course that lay ahead of them), and at some of the plaintiffs' solicitors involved. Of them, the board said "there is no incentive on the solicitors to act as a responsible filter for dubious cases, as there is no effective sanction available to the funder, the board. for shoddy work or for bad cases being taken. The board has to rely on the assisted person's legal advisers to act responsibly and competently... clearly, these types of actions are generating lots of weak or hopeless cases. Among the factors which it quoted as

tending to cause this were.

The fact that a number of these claims have been publicly generated, either by solicitor advertising or by the media.

 What can only be described as a "bandwagon" effect: plaintiffs and legal advisers getting carried away by everything surrounding the action and losing sight of the viability of individual cases.

There must be some boundaries to the concept of access to justice. Some controls must be exercised over those whose partisanship might otherwise cause them to over-commit to their own pet causes. The Lord Chief Justice. Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Woolf, and even the Lord Chancellor's Department are trying their best not to tilt civil legal aid towards or against plaintiffs or defendants. They are undoubtedly fed up with professional litigators writing and acting on their own script and, in some cases, paying only lip service to the Legal Aid Board as funders.

As I can testify from personal experience, no private enterprise, whether the corporate Goliath or an insurance company, or an individual paying for his or her own representation, fails to apply a costs-benefit test before deciding whether to embark on or defend civil litigation. This means that their regular solicitors know that they will not be thanked or retained again if they are less than pragmatic about the merits of this or that case.

n the tranquilliser litigation, I am in a position to know that neither major corporate defendant was taken by surprise about the extent of their exposure to successfully spent defence costs, whereas the £30 million-plus bill now confronting the Legal Aid Board seems not to have been wholly expected.

Beware the special pleadings of those who might have a vested interest in the unlimited funding of

DAVID A. MCINTOSH • The author is senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper, which has acted for

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS...

Are you looking for a lead role and real potential partnership? If you are and have between 3-6 years' poe in asset finance then this first race City practice would like to hear from you. You will work as part of a general banking department and nsibility fast. Ref: 1725268

CO/CO
Southampton To L'Outstanding
Heavy-weight regional practice seels company/commercial lawyers with 4-6 years
poe to undertake a varied caseload of corporate transactions, including acquisitions
and disposals and joint ventures. With proven marketing skills and a desire to play a lead role in the structure of the department this one is a must. Ref: T21868

TRADEMARKS An unusual opportunity, Premier City practice is now looking to recruit a trademarks specialist to join its prestigious department. A real challenge because whoever gets this role will have the opportunity to manage and take a front line

Thomes Valley To &Excellent SENIOR IN-HOUSE Major global engineering group seeks senior lawyer to support the Director of Legal Affairs. Work load will consist of a high volume of merger, acquisition and disposal work. With at least eight years' poe from a major City firm or the manufacturing industry, you will be a pro-active and commercially-minded lawyer seeking a fresh challenge. Ref. T 19544

Leading insurance practice now seeking 0-2 years' poe solictor to deal primarily with policy wording and coverage disputes, product liability and property claims. Lizigation experience is essential and candidates must have excellent academic

ord and strong personality. Ref: T23128

Include a broad range of property led transactions and corporate support. Excellent experience and academic ability are absolutely essential. Ref: T13948 US BANK - SINGAPORE Exceptional opportunity to work in the Sngapore office of this leading. US based merchant bank Opportunities for lawyers with at least 4 years' pop either to undertake

prospects. Ref: TZ4898

PROPERTY

PROPERTY LITIGATION

capital markets/general banking work or compliance and private banking matters, working closely with other offices within the region. With relevant experience truly dynamic and commercial individuals should apply. Refs T25691 INSOLVENCY Leading City Firm, now seeks non-contentious insolvency lawyers with between 2-6 years' experience to John its banking department. Outstanding opportunity for suitably qualified and first race individuals to work for one of the most enviable client bases in the City and to undertake a diverse and high profile workload. Good

Excellent opportunity to join this major regional practice to be based in their Reading office. With between 5-7 years' poe, you will have gained excellent broadly-based property higistion experience to date including landlord and tenant. If you are an ambitious and motivated lawyer, there are definite partnership prospects. Ref. T20714

Section 1 tass.

*Major Cuy firm with an excellent reputation in this field seeks high quality securities and non-concentious banking lawyers with between 3-6 years' p.g. in addition to maintenant banking experience, you will have gained first-class regulatory exposure. Excellent opportunity to join a major player in the field. Ref. T 19879

Outstanding opportunity for a 2-3 year qualified commercial property lawyer with a City or regional firm background to join a leading City firm. The workload will

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Rebecca Errington, Jonathan Marsdon or Seasus Hoor (all qualified lowyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-800 2188 evening/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WCIR 4#1. Confidential for 0171-831 6394. S-mail rebecca@qdrec.demon.co.uk



UNITED KINGDOM • FRANCE • THE NETHERLANDS • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

1996 LONDON & TOKYO

COSPORATE PARTNER Highly regarded and profitable medium-sized/farge City firm seeks additional partner to add gravitas and profite to the Corporate Department. Firm has excellent media and P related clients offering substantial opportunities to cross-self as well as strong international associations. New recruit will play a key role in developing the corporate profite and strong practice development skills will be crucial. A following is not essential. Excellent and supportive working environment and presented on the top and of City states. (Net 4628)

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS C.£50-65,000 Highly reputable City practice with strong reputation in persions and employment work seeks to fill perceived "gap" in to practice by the recruitment of a service lawyer with indepth employee benefits experience as a partner designate to develop the firm's practice in this area. Outstanding quality of current employment and pensions clientale provides significant opportunity for cross-selling, firm has the strongest possible long term contentement to this specialisation. (Ref.S.135)

IAPAN **CEXPATRIATE** New opening at mediumbarge City first with international office network. Client is rotating current; head of Tokyo office back to London and is seeking a senior assistant or junior partner capable of replacing him. Ideal candidate will have spent a minimum of 2 years working in Tokyo. Practice area is calco and banking. Candidate sought must be sufficiently entropreneurial to see managing and developing this office as an exciting challenge. (Rel.6134)

BANKING Relatively recently furthed Barleing Department at top City practice seeks additional lawyer with 2-5 years' banking experience. Pilet of work will include single lender and syndicated facilities, projects and some capital markets for UK and foreign lenders. Within the firm's 5 year business plan, significant growth in the Barleing Department is one of the key priorities. As a result, prospects in this area are generally very good. (Ref.3158)

ECITY Medium-steed central London practice with very stable partnership and unusual range of co/co activity is steeking an EEC specialist to give them high level expert support in this area. There is already a significant caseload to undertake and the form (which has a Brussels office) believes

cases of the meant of the term (which has a Brussels office) believes that the meant 5 years will see major growth in EEC relaxed instructions from existing chems. Mean candidate will be 6-8 years qualified, trained at a top 10 City firm and have spent at least a year living and working in Brussels. (Ref 6668) UNUSUAL COLO

Applical City firm with household name company client base seeks a flexible, academically bright 2-5 year qualified company/commercial lawyer for a challenging mix of work ranging from flotations to high profile interracional joint ventures, often with a media bias. Successful Candidate will be the only assistant as this level in the department, and future prospects are, therefore, excellent. Open, friendly working environment. (Nef. 5-469)

PENSIONS 2-5 YEARS

Opportunity for persions lawyer with minimum of 2 years' experience to join valued seam at medium-steed City firm. Enlightened management structure has ensured good partner to assistant ratio resulting in possibility for individual career progression with informed partner supervision, Ideal job for candidate feeling undervalued by current firm or possibly being treated as just a member of the corporate support team. (Ref.5925) JUNIOR PROPERTY

Well imaged, highly regarded property team at mediumlarge Cry firm with clients inducing some of the largest retailers in the UK and sall busy developers seeks a justice lawyer with good property extense to join the group, ideal candidate will be 0-2 years qualified, must have a 2-1 and good property examing in articles and enjoy the idea of being part of a team which has a time of team commencial mediate redominant parts in the first Ref 2045.

us, please contact Miranda Smyth, Andrew Russell or Jonathan Brenner (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (0171-624 8647 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner. Recruitment Consultants. 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY, Confidential fax 0171-247 5174, E-mail mirranda@zmb.co.uk



Moor House H9 London Wall London EC2Y 5ET Fax: 0171-628 9001

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

invites applications for the post of: **CROWN COUNSEL**

The Cayman Islands are a British Dependency in the West Indies located 480 miles south of Miami. They have a population of 30,000 and one of the highest living standards in the Caribbean.

Applicants should be barristers or solicitors or possesses a Commonwealth attorney qualification and have a minimum of five years practical experience in civil litigation with a commercial bias.

The successful applicant will be a member of the Attorney General's Chambers and will have the conduct of civil litigation involving both Government departments and statutory corporations. Advocacy will be required together with the ability to draft pleadings and prepare written advice.

Salary will be in the range of CI\$42,654 to CI\$56,924 per annum tax free (CI\$1.00 = US\$1.20) plus a 15% supplement paid monthly with salary. Benefits include air passages and medical care. Appointment will be on a two year contract.

Application form, job description and general recruitment information are available from: The Cayman Islands Government Office, 6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE

Telephone: 0171 491 7779 Deadline for receipt of applications is 23 January.

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nery days, of a major practice. OFFICE ADMIN JUNIOR CITY SOLS - TO #12.5k Regist individual prof. with appropriate in law firm for gen. differ duties. Delivering internsivenessal said door to-count. Photocopying set. Ideas to leave and prepared to give 100% offers. Tel, that or post your CV to: MATHIESON REID

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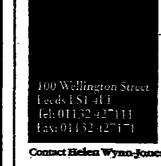
experience, Solicitor Legal Executive or Licensed Conveyances required by long established, but forward looking central London private client firm.

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NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

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COMMERCIAL LITIGATION 2 to 4 years qualified to £49.000 A rare opportunity has arisen for a general

commercial litigator to join one of the City's premier contentious departments. A combination of technical ability, good experience and commercial acumen is essential. This is an excellent opportunity. T.9153. COMMERCIAL

2 to 3 years qualified to £43,000 A bright and motivated lawyer is actively being sought to handle commercial (not corporate) work at one of the City's most forward-thinking practices. Heavyweight client-base and involves a great deal of client contact, T.8954.

PROPERTY LITIGATION 2 to 4 years qualified to £45,000 Medium-sized West End firm, which is particularly well-known for property brigation work, now requires a junior assistant. This specialist litigation team handles a wide range of matters including mortgage actions and landlord and tenant work for numerous lenders. T.9164.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL DURAL 1 to 4 years qualified The Middle East office of top City flora requires an assistant to undertake a broad range of work including joint ventures, takeovers, distribution

agreements and employment contracts. Top twenty City firm background is required. T.9138.

years experience of general hanking/finance work. Project finance knowledge is a particular advantage. Opportunity to return to London or other offices, if desired T.8743.

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City practice with an envisible record of growth in the last five years, requires an additional assistant for the Employment Group to handle both contentious and non-contentious work. Employment expedence from City or large provincial firm is required, T.9132.

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2 years + qualified & Excellent Niche shipping and insurance practice requires an

admiralty expert, preferably with scafaring experience to join this established team. The

majority of the practice's work is of an international

Stagnspore EExcellent Package
City from with substantial office in Singapore now

requires additional assistants with two to five

nature. Marketing skills important. T.8769.

PROPERTY FINANCE/BANKING 1 to 3 years qualified Excellent
A bright and enthosissic property finance lawyer
is now sought by this leading City firm. A pure banking background will also be considered. First class prospects with no strings attached. Working environment is very good and money is excellent. T.9171.

Contact Helen Wynn-Jones or Simon Lindres on 0171 628 8400 or evenings 0181 924 3575. Confidential Fax 0171 628 9001

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Late bills law would hurt small companies

By BRIAN COLLETT

A LAW that would allow interest to be charged on bills that are paid late would damage small business, says a new study. At-tempts are being made to persuade legislators to businesses a statutory right to add interest to late payment

The Forum of Private Business regards slow payment as the biggest obstacle to small business development and has lobbied for a legal right to interest.

lan Peters, head of National Westminster Bank's small business services, is also making the case at the European Commission round table on small enterprises.

The stark contrast is in the findings of a study from the credit management research group of Bradford University's management centre. The study found that credit was part of small business common practice and that the larger companies would benefit most from a statutory right to

Professor Nick Wilson, the study team leader, whose chair at Bradford is sponsored by the Institute of Credit Management. said: "The smaller businesses we looked at were very reliant on their credit. When we asked companies who were paying them late, it was predominantly other small companies."

Large companies, however, have the resources to build latepayment penalties into their systems and would gain from a statutory right. They are also more able to settle their bills on time. "The instrument would not be advantageous to the people who need it most," said Professor

He found it worrying that organisations that were working for small enterprises insisted on the legislation. Instead, proper financing was needed, possibly more venture capital, to put business on a surer footing and speed up payment. Professor Wilson said: The main problem is that smaller businesses are starved of long-term credit. It is not a surprise that they are stuck in a hole."

☐ The Bradford team is con-

ducting another study of credit

Beavering away at imports from the dining table

Mary Wilson visits a couple whose lives were transformed by a relative's present

hen Sarah Akin-Smith saw the present from her sister - a highly polished cast aluminium beaver - she hardly imagined that a couple of years later she would be selling them in their hundreds to stores such as Harrods, John Lewis and Liberty. She said: "I was so taken by the sculpture that I contacted the

Canadian company and offered to become their exclusive UK distributor. James, my husband, had his own business. He helped a bit, but basically I ran the company from our dining room in Fulham, west London, for the first two years.

"Life was fairly fraught at the beginning. We originally saw it as a sideline. We had a target to pay the first lot of school fees and get a holiday out of it. We never envisaged that the business would take off as it has."

Most people have to battle to have their products accepted by big stores, but the Akin-Smiths, who live in Dorset, seem to have fallen on their feet. "My first contact with John Lewis was to ring up a buyer, tell her what I had and send a catalogue. She was so excited, she rang back the day she received it and put in an order," she said.

They think they have been so successful because they had never been in retailing and so could offer a fresh, even naive approach. "We just loved the product and I have become friends with all the buyers I deal with," said Mrs Akin-Smith. A year ago, a friend of a friend.

the sales director of a Hong Kong porcelain company, arrived on the doorstep. "I thought it was a social call, but she arrived, armed with she changed my baby's nappy.

could sell them here and a deal was struck. The china is hand-painted with an unusual amount of detail and small business and is due to and has ten coats of lacquer giving report either this month or next. depth and body to the finish. "I



Sarah and James Akin-Smith, whose range of giftware is now sold in several top London stores

gave her some ideas about designs and we had to Westernise them quite a bit, but they are more efficient than any European company. In all the thousands of plates, we have never had a piece of china broken, they are all packed so well," she added.

Sixty per cent of the turnover of Sarah Akin-Smith — which is also the name of the business - is now the porcelain, the remainder the aluminium ware. The corporate

☐ More than 60 per cent of small

businesses believe Britain's economy is in decline or not recovering, according to the Office World

quarterly business survey. That is

double the number a year ago. The

the second report of the European

side is burgeoning, too, with Zurich Insurance and Pinnacle Insurance, for example, ordering items in their thousands for promotions or corporate gifts.

The first year turnover was £3,000, the next £50,000 and this year it will be well into six figures, and it could easily double or treble, with just a few orders in the pipeline taking off," said Mr Akin-Smith. But for all this, they intend to keep the company small. They

work six days a week and several evenings. A sister-in-law has the space and time to run the storage and distribution of the business in Northamptonshire, and they do the rest. "We still rope in packers from the family. But we do not want to expand and start paying large salaries. The bulk of the business is done by fax and phone, we never leave our mobile behind, even when we take the children for a

مكنامن الأعل

Asian business pressed to get a new image and go for growth

BRITAIN'S Asian business community is being encouraged to go for growth and shed its image of the family-run corner shop. More than 50 per cent of Britain's independent retail outlets are owned by Asians, but research shows many are failing to adopt more profitable trading patterns and to enlarge their business.

Suhail Aziz, managing director

of Brettonwood Partnership, a successful Asian-led international management consultancy, says: "We have the inclination, the urge, to run our own business, but we must lift our sights to the mainstream and to the new global opportunities - and Britain must maximise on the potential of its Asian community.

On the initiative of Mr Aziz, a series of symposiums, aimed at small and medium-sized Asian enterprises, are being held around Britain with three main objectives: to increase awareness of practical help available from local agencies. such as training and enterprise councils and government depart-ments; to enable successful Asians to tell their stories and act as role models, and to highlight opportunities in the UK, the single European market and emerging central and East European markets. In 1996, symposiums are to be held in Blackburn, east London, Birmingham, Leicester and Peterborough. The events are partly sponsored by

the Government. While the Asian community is diverse, it has many common traits. These include a capacity for hard work and strong family culture. The latter can bring constraints: a wife or brother or nephew may not be the best person for the job. In research for the University of Central England, Dr Monder Ram found that in many cases the harmonious family enterprise was a myth. He "Often, autocratic male bosses are evident."

In a study in Birmingham he pecting conducted, only two out of 15 businesses were "break-out contenders" who showed entrepreneurial motivation, had genuine growth aspirations, wanted to upgrade products or develop new ones, paid attention to human resources or were willing to consider relocating.
One of the two exceptions was in

mpy start
new year engineering, where the owner had worked in a large organisation and knew how to delegate and buy management skills; the other was a

business run by two women manufacturing top-quality ethnic foods.
Young generation Asians are most likely to break out, but cultural ties remain strong. One researcher said: "Even those who get a business administration master's degree are often sucked back into the old family ways."



new year's resolution.

"I've already broken my

survey found that fewer firms photographs of their plates and were reporting sales increases or stayed for an hour and a half. While I looked at the photographs, Mrs Akin-Smith was asked if she

☐ Support for innovative small and medium-sized businesses is one of four priorities to help to reduce unemployment in the European Community set out in

Commission's Competitiveness Advisory Group.

☐ Requests for loans, grants and sources of funds have been among the more common inquiries at Business Link City Partners which covers the City, Hackney and

Colin Barnett, operations manager at Business Link Gloucester,

is promoted to general manager. He spent 33 years in senior roles in banking and managed operations at the county's enterprise agency before joining Business Link when it was set up 12 months ago. The one-stop shop has received more than 8,000 inquiries this year.

☐ A litigation support panel has been formed by the UK 200 Group of chartered accountants. Lawyers acting for small businesses in such cases as contract disputes, fraud and personal injury can call in an expert member of the panel for financial opinions. Assessments of business or earnings losses can also be requested.

☐ The chamber of commerce in Kingston upon Thames, southwest London, is offering a free day's business counselling, worth £250,

to members. An extra day's counselling in a subsequent year will be offered at a rate of about E30 plus VAT. The chamber is planning similar services for members on information technology and market research.

Only one in ten women who runs a business works fewer than 50 hours a week, a survey by the Forum of Private Business says. The survey reports that some women put in between 60 and 80 hours, and two thirds work weekends and bank holidays.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS



Invitation to Tender

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is the world's largest voluntary reproductive health and family planning organisation. The Federation is currently working in more than 140 countries around the world, providing family planning services and information at local and

IPPF's Arab World Region, incorporating fourteen countries within the region, has signed an agreement with the European Community for the supply and distribution of contraceptives to Algeria - one of the

IPPF hereby invites sealed bids from contraceptive manufacturers of EC member countries and Algerian manufacturers.

The invitation to tender consists of conditions for supply contracts financed by the European Economic Community and a technical annex. Interested eligible bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents by submitting a written request to:

Mr. Tim McLeod, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Arab World Regional Office, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4NS. United Kingdom.

Requests for a complete set of bidding documents can only be made until 12 January 1996. Subsequent bids must be received at the above address on or before 5.00 p.m. London time, on 12 February 1996. Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 13 February 1996.



THE TIMES

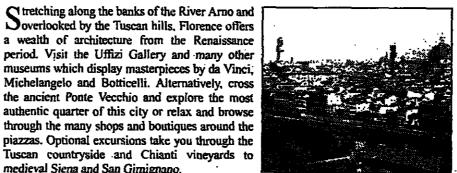
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Market in gilt-edged repos opens for business

By JANET BUSH ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE new market in gilt-edged repos begins today, with great hopes at the Bank of England of new dynamism in the British government bond market, greater liquidity and, therefore, lower borrowing costs for the Government.

The Bank announced in February that it was setting up a market in gift repos, bringing the British govern-

ment bond market up to date with other, highly successful markets such as the Treasury bond market in America. Sterling has rallied, in the admittedly thin trading period between Christmas and new year. partly traders say, because of additional interest among foreign inves-tors in the British gilt market ahead of the new repo system.

Other leading foreign bond markets already operate repo systems and have a higher proportion of

overseas investment in government bonds than the British market. The Treasury estimates that it could eventually save £25 million a year in public spending for every one basis point off gilt yields.

A repo is the sale of a bond with an agreement to repurchase it at a fixed price and time in the future. In effect, one party lends a certain amount of gilts to the other in return for cash. The cash a player gets in return for gilts can be used to finance trading in

other kinds of instruments. As things stand, holders of gilts can lend gilts in return for a fee but, unless they are authorised gilt-edged marker-makers, they are not allowed to borrow stock and therefore take out short positions in the market. In the new market, this facility will be available to institutional investors.

The innovation of the new gilt repo market will, it is hoped, provide not only more liquidity for investors in British government bonds but a more flexible instrument for traders in different financial instruments. With a much larger than expected forecast for the public sector borrowing requirement next year, the Bank is under ever greater pressure to

make the gilt market attractive to

In the Budget, the Chancellor forecast a PSBR of £22.5 billion for the forthcoming tax year compared with £16 billion predicted in the Treasury's summer forecast.

Labour puts energy into power reform Christine Buckley on the opposition

party's widest-ranging policy review

ver the next few days, letters from a range of industrialists and academics will begin to drop on the office doormat of Margaret Beckett, Labour's Trade and Industry Secretary.

The letters will be replies to invitations to join one of Labour's widest-ranging. and arguably one of its most Labour has begun work

on a shake-up of the regulatory framework covering Britain's energy. With the input of a variety of industry specialists, the party is starting to sculpt what it will

Orchestrating the task is John Battle, the recently appointed Shadow Minister for Energy. He is almost evangelical about the challenge that lies before him believing the present regulatory structures governing electricity, gas and water to be in a mess and to be incomprehensible to the consumers who buy the services.

"Regulation failed the **6** Regulation customer. Certainly it has so far has on price failed the but also in other ways. In the sumcustomer

the electricity distribution review. in water Ofwat has largely stood back and watched things happen. saying that it couldn't intervene. We've had a hell of a lot of complaints about gas. All in all we've not had great satisfaction. The regulators seem to be stuck on the price formula. They may be strug-

customer back-up that we had before." Regulation, says Mr Battle, has proven a scrappy affair that has not responded effectively to the takeover frenzy which has transformed the industry in the space of a few months. He bids by National Power and PowerGen to the Monopolies and Mergers Commissuch as those by North West Water of Norweb and that by Welsh Water for South Wales Electricity received no scrutiny in spite of the fears from consumer groups over

gling to maintain a fair price

formula but meanwhile we

are just not getting the

"All of the initial bids

one company providing two

takeovers in the utilities were established. While Power-Gen and National Power are out of the frame having a dialogue with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission we can easily see more American companies move in," The answer could lie in having just one regulator served by a panel of advisors. Such an arrangement would address some of the problems of fragmentation and be a suitable response to a

converging energy market. There are no easy answers to power regulation which demands a tricky balance of satisfying customers with lower bills and better service: serving up growing dividends for shareholders; and delivering a decent tax return to the Government. But there is a growing urgency for answers

Labour will hardly have time to wipe its feet on the doormat if it enters govern ment in 1997 before full competition in the energy market erupts the following year. The

1998 wil plunge powwholly different world as internationalisation on price and ket gathers other ways 9 Bande is not

saying who over the next few weeks will start to provide those answers when the regulation review gets fully under way.

It is certain, however, that key figure will be Dr Dieter Helm, the Oxford University energy strategist who provoked the anger of Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, when he declared that regulation was in crisis. He has repeatedly criticised the pricing formula clamped on utilities which caps prices at a level related

to inflation - RPI-X. A punishing windfall tax, that was much vaunted several months ago, may now not be implemented or at ion. Labour is mindful of the overseas earnings capacity of the utilities and the benefits they could have on the balance of payments.

Mr Battle adds: "We would want to support that. They would be bringing foreign currency and other benefits back to Britain. They would be vital and dynamic international businesses and we wouldn't want to do anything to damage

UK pension funds surge to enjoy a vintage year BY MARTIN BARROW UK PENSION funds surged ahead in 1995, with annual returns of 19 per cent reflecting strong advances in equities and bonds. Funds recovered strongly from their poor showing in

1994, according to the prelimimary annual survey by The WM Company, tracking the performance of more than 80 per cent of the UK pension fund market. Despite the setback in 1994, pension funds have averaged more than 15 per cent each year compared to retail price inflation of about 3 per cent. Over 20 years, average returns have exceeded inflation by about 7

UK equities provided a return of 24 per cent, a figure exceeded only by the United States, where equities recorded returns of 34 per cent. The 1995 average return from Japanese equities of less than 2 per cent highlighted the recent roller coaster behaviour of the Japanese market.

However, over a five-year period, UK equities, with returns of more than 16 per cent have been beaten by every leading overseas equity region with the exception of Japan, WM calculates. Europe returned 17 per cent. North America 20 per cent and the Pacific, excluding Japan, 27 per cent Japan trailed badly at 11 per cent.
Falling worldwide interest rates fuelled the performance

by bonds. Returns on UK bonds of 15 per cent were overshadowed by foreign competition, with overseas bonds eeing returns of 21 per cent. Property, a star performer in 1994, recorded a disappointing return of 5 per cent. WM said hedging activity also increased in 1995, with

managers varying their exposure during the course of the year. "This was particularly apparent in the Japanese market, with many managers hedging between one third and two thirds of their yen

that the deal would link two

essential services. should have been referred so that the ground rules for

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

BOBACHEE

(b) A male cook. Corruption of the Hindi bāwarchī. "And every night and morning/ The Bobachee he shall kill/ The sempiternal Moorghye,/ And we'll all have a grill."

(c) A Tibetan temple or monastery. An adaptation of the Tibetan gön-pa a solitary place or hermitage. "A gompa, one of those religious establishments whose walls housed more than a fifth of Tibetan males."

DUNNAMANY (a) A colloquial form of rendering "I don't know how many or "I don't know how much." Rudyard Kipling, Puck, 1906:
"The Pharisees just about flowed down the beach to the boat, I

dunnamany of 'em." (b) Resembling a purse or pouch, burstform, purse-shaped. From the Latin bursicula diminutive of bursa a purse. "You

are a fine figure of a man, sir. But what I admire about you most is your bursiculateness."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE l Rxe?! Kxe? (1 ... Rxd1 2 Rxe4) 2 Rel and White emerges two pawns ahead with an easy win.

With effect from 2 January 96, the following changes apply:

Cheque Rate

informative:

Cheque Account rate for agreed overdrafts up to \$250 Chegue Account rate for agreed or EAR 18.8% EAR 9.9% Cheque Account and Premier Cheque Account rate for unauthor EAR 25.3%

High Interest Savings Account Net CAR % p.s. 2.85 3.04 3.62 4.21 £2,500-24,999 £25,000-99,999 £100,000+ Not CAR 14 p.a. 0.38 4.13 4.50 4.88 £1-2,499 \$2,500-24,999 7 E25,000-99,999 £100,000+ 4.50 4,88

Businesses expecting bumpy start to new year

By PHILIP PANGALOS AND JANET BUSH

BRITISH businesses remain cautious on prospects and are braced for a bumpy ride as the harsh economic climate continues to restrict profit growth, and gloomy forecasts predict a slowdown in exports and

A survey by Lloyds Bank says that businesses are finding it difficult to accept and adapt to a low inflation dimate, with growth below expectations and an increase in cashflow difficulties sapping their confidence.

The twice-yearly survey, which polled more than 2,000 businesses in November and December, shows that many were disappointed by slower than expected growth in order books, prompting slower prof-

Daiwa Bank plans for US plea bargaining

JAPAN'S scandal-hit Daiwa Bank plans to plea bargain with US federal authorities next month over the 24 counts of fraud filed against it, the Asahi Shimbun reported

BY OUR CITY STAFF

yesterday. case to a settlement by the end of March, when it closes its books for fiscal 1995, the newspaper quoted a Daiwa

official as saying. It also quoted a senior official of Sumitomo Bank, another leading Japanese commercial bank, as saying that it planned to start talks with Daiwa in April at the earliest on a possible merger after the con-

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clusion of the plea bargaining. in November, the US Federal Reserve expelled Daiwa Bank from the United States for allegedly trying to disguise \$1.) billion in losses due to fraudulent US Treasury bond trading by a trader at its New York branch. Sumitomo has agreed to take over the US operations of Daiwa and hinted at the possibility of a merger

between the two banks.

Asahi Shimbun said that Daiwa Bank was expected to plead not guilty to the fraud charges, in its documents to be submitted to US regulators on January 8.

it growth in 1995. As a result, business confidence is at its lowest since the Lloyds survey began in 1992.

A confidence index, based on expectations for order books, sales and profitability for the next six months, was eight points lower than six months ago. In addition, for the first time since the survey began, there has been an increase in those reporting cashflow problems and a slowdown in export orders.

The survey showed a growth in order books, with 43 per cent of companies reporting higher orders, compared to 17 per cent reporting lower orders. However, there were fewer companies reporting higher orders, and more reporting a fall in orders. The construction and retail sectors saw the slowest growth in order books, while manufacturing and hotels and catering reported a boom period.

Michael Riding, director of commercial banking at Lloyds Bank, said: "Although businesses say they feel less confident than six months ago ... order books are actually continuing to grow, although at a lower rate than at the peak of the cycle in 1994."

However, Mr Riding added: "While they are still experiencing growth, they are having difficulty in coming to terms with managing a low inflation economy. This, coupled with failed growth expectations. possibly pessimistic, นทnecessarily."

Meanwhile, Cambridge Econometrics expects British growth to slow to around 2.5 per cent this year, compared with about 2.75 per cent in 1995, despite a modest acceleration in consumer spending. The private forecasters said

that spending should pick up a little this year and then grow more strongly in 1997 in response to larger tax cuts than most assume will happen in next year's Budget. But there will be a weaker contribution to growth from net trade as world economic activity slows and British imports recover from the unusually slow rate of growth early in

Cambridge Econometrics assumes that investment will pick up this year on the expectation that projects under the Government's Private Finance Initiative will fill much of the gap left by cuts in public capital spending.



Locker faces fight over Pentre

THOMAS Locker Holdings, as Locker is capitalised at E3 ing shareholders to reject the

the engineering company, faces growing opposition to the proposed reverse takeover

by Pentre Group.

John Carr, the largest single shareholder in Thomas Locker with almost 23 per cent of the ordinary voting stock, is calling on other investors to vote against the £7.5 million purchase of privately-owned Pentre at an extraordinary

million. Pentre, established in 1988,

manufactures reels, drums and specialised machinery for the wire and cable industry. If the deal goes ahead, Philip Gartside, the chairman, will become chief executive of the enlarged Thomas Locker, and Michael Seymour will be managing director, the post However, Mr Carr is advis-

proposal. He says that the acquisition overvalues Pentre and undervalues Thomas Locker and will involve change of control without payment of a bid premium. Thomas Locker has net cash, but Pentre is burdened with heavy borrowing, the consequence of its acquisition-driv-

en strategy, Mr Carr says. Finally, he claims that the

transaction costs are high and

businesses that do not fit. Mr Carr, who is advised by KPMG Manchester, emerged as Thomas Locker's largest single investor in May after buying shares from three relatives of the founder. He is also opposing the terms of the proposed enfranchisement of Locker's "A" ordinary shares, claiming that investors are not being adequately compensated for dilution of voting rights.

Gilts exceed expectations INDIA'S efforts to privatise states on offer. The six com-

lotal returns from gilts in calendar 1995 (allowing for inflation) were in the top quartile of those recorded over the past 77 years. This was not the expectation at the start of the year. Then, consensus forecasts expected gilt yields to be broadly unchanged over the 12-month period. They also expected inflation to average 3.3 per cent and a PSBR for the fiscal year of £21

The inflation outcome has been virtually spot on this expectation. A higher PSBR can be accounted for by economic growth undershooting expec-

tations by 0.8 per cent.
It is therefore difficult to account for this performance, looking at the main domestic economic factors. A more convincing explanation lies overseas, for it is in Germany and particularly the US that bond performances have been much better than expected. It is also here that economic growth proved to be much weaker than forecasters envis-

aged a year ago. The net result has been strong performances from all bond markets, but the spread of UK yields relative to those elsewhere has tended to widen. The surprise factors in the UK were clearly not as great as those on the

Continent or in other Anglo economies. This is itself a surprise, since more of an emphasis is being placed on the impact that demographic factors are having on government finances. The potential consequences to government

deficits of having unfunded pension schemes was well illustrated in an OECD analysis published last summer. The United Kingdom's position is extremely favourable since we have tackled this particular problem by encouraging private-sector pension

Even though only half the population is covered by these schemes, the projections for future budget deficits in the UK are considerably more favourable than in most other OECD countries. Why has the gilt market not yet reflected

GILT-EDGED

this relative advantage? The main answer is that it has been preoccupied with concerns about the current budget deficit (especially in the run up to the Budget). This is understandable.

At the start of this decade, the underlying or cyclically adjusted budget deficit was approaching levels not seen since the anid-1970s. Although the overall deficit reduced through the 1980s (recording a surplus during the economboom of the late Eighties), the underlying picture was one of deterioration. Hence by the start of this decade, we were faced with a fiscal position that was as great a concern for the current administration as the one faced by Lahour politicians two decades ago. On both occasions, fiscal policy had to

be put into reverse, and the past three budgets have had one thing in common, namely, aiming to restore the underlying budget deficit to a more sustainable position. On current trends, this structural deficit should be down to 2½ per cent of GDP in 1996. This represents considerable progress from three years earlier when an underlying deficit of 6 per cent was recorded. It also represented a reassurance that political pressure to produce exceptional tax cuts was resisted in November's Budget.

However, the projected deficit is still higher than those expected for the US and Germany next year, and still a long way from the norm of the 1950s, when the underlying deficit was in balance. The relevance of this last observation lies with the fact that the average inflation rate in the 1950s was almost the same as that recorded so far in the 1990s. The underlying deficits, however, are very different.

Expectations of further progress are also influenced by the outcome of the next election. Labour politicians are keen to emphasise their desire to pursue credible fiscal policies, but markets still require a risk premium to reflect their concern. The net result is that it seems unlikely that much progress will be made in the months ahead to reduce the spread of gilt yields over other leading

> MICHAEL HUGHES Barciays de Zoete Wedd

Indian telecoms setback

the telephone system suffered another setback yesterday when a second round of tenders to provide basic telecom services were received from private joint-venture firms for only five of the 13

panies submitting bids with their Indian partners were Moscow Telecom, Bell Atlantic and Nynex Corp of the United States, Bell Canada, Stet Corp of Italy and NTT of

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND	
US dollar	
1.5572 (+0.0157)	
German mark	
2.2299 (+0.0097) Exchange index	
83.1 (+0.1)	
Bank of England official close (4	ipm i

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2690.1 (+29,6) FT-SE 100 2689.3 (+31.0) New York Dow Jones 5117.12 (+19.15) Tokyo Nikkei Avge 19868.15 (+123.73)

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Denmark Kr ... 2.056 0.692 8.44 6.68 7.38 2.17 2.216 0.747 Finiand Mikk ... France Fr Germany Dm . Greece Dr Hong Kong \$ 12.62 Ireland Pt Israel Shk 5.2600 Italy Lira 2563.00 4.6100 2408.00 Japan Yen 173.70 Malta 0.592 0.592 2.647 0.537Netherids Gld 2.417 New Zealand \$ 2.51 Norway Kr 10.44 Portugal Esc .. 244.00 2.29 9.64 225.50 5.40 S Africa Rd ..., ref. Spain Pta 195,50 Sweden Kr 10,97 Switzerland Fr refer 1.646

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This morning, Sir Rocco Forte will announce the final elements in a surprisingly impressive defence against the £3.2 billion takeover bid mounted by Granada's Gerry Robinson. The outcome will still depend on how far Granada is prepared to raise its offer and what its own shareholders think of that. When Mr Robinson launched his offensive, however, he surely did not expect so vigourous a response. Forte's plans would give immediate returns to patient shareholders, concentrate the business on hotels, improve finances, give up low-return investments that owed more to family pride than hardnosed judgment and accelerate re-structuring of the hotel business.

Whatever the outcome, that package shows the value that takeover bids can bring shareholders. Sir Rocco might have done most of this anyway. But the stately progress of years has been crammed into a programme drawn up and presented in weeks. Who knows whether such drastic action would be best for the long-term future of the business, or whether speed is always a virtue. If investors' demands reflect economic efficiency, however, the ability of outsiders to challenge incumbent

magement is plainly valuable. Even Wall Street, home of the takeover bid, was impressed by the merger boom that hit London in 1995. Swathes of industry — such as pharmaceuticals, investment banking and electricity supply - are being restructured at an amazing

Takeover addicts thrill to another fun-packed year

such speed is rarely possible, except collapse. In Britain, companies worth more than £40 billion changed hands in a single year through market-driven takeovers. There will probably be as many bids in 1996, even if the total value is lower. Likely industries include water, food, retail banking, insurance, leisure and construction.

Relatively few, however, will revolve round the issues of management at the centre of the Granada/-Forte affair. More will be vehicles for restructuring industries in change. Even more will be driven by purely financial motives - tax gains or conglomerates buying companies with low-rated profits. But most takeovers will simply be a low-risk form of expansion.

Last year's takeover boom was accurately predicted by thinking stock market analysts. The corporate sector was becoming more flush with cash and unused borrowing power than ever. But fearful company boards would not risk new products, new factories or outlets for fear that they would misjudge markets, spend more than they



budgeted, or find that the economic recovery was petering out. Easier to expand by buying another business. Sure enough, takeovers boomed while capital investment disappointed, fulfilling the prophecy that

growth would peter out.

The main objection to the Anglo Saxon takeover system is that bids now substitute for risk-taking inestment. If the colour of Government changes, that will in-fluence its policies. Hankering for continental consensus will go to-gether with promoting capital investment as a "good thing".

Many company bosses will therefore press ahead with their more

controversial takeover plans this year, while the free market going is good. Oddly, however, the continental approach has already been given a fillip from an unlikely quarter. Ian Byatt, the water regulator. Water monopolies are tipped as a

target for takeovers this year. This morning will see the debut of United Utilities, formed by merging Norweb with North West Water. Welsh Water has agreed a similar takeover of Swalec, its equivalent electricity utility. Mr Byatt wants to ensure, however, that his charges do not become minor parts of faceless glomerates. He is pressing the Office of Fair Trading to make Weish Water keep a separate stock market quotation for Dwr Cymru, its water utility. He has, somewhat optimistically, asked United Utilities to do the same after the event.

Mr Byatt's motives are evidently varied. He fears it might be easier for smart conglomerate financiers to pull the wool over his eyes. More fundamentally, he reckons that top managers spend far too much time on other activities, to the detriment of their water businesses. If the water utilities had to be separatequoted companies, they would have

to have independent boards and separate management that focused on its own business. This thinking strikes at the heart of the Anglo-Saxon concept of takeovers, of integrated management and cash flows, of busses who crack the whip and allocate resources to divisional managements round their empire.

In retrospect, it might have been better for consumers if water and electricity companies had been made permanently takeover proof, avoiding the rush since their golden shares expired. Peer competition proved so good a spur that none of the utility takeovers has yet featured critiques of "poor" management. Mr Byatt cannot put the clock back and rewrite the privatisation regime. Separate-quoted companies with outstanding 25 per cent public holdings would not work in the British context. Investors rightly hate owning minority stakes, so they are lowly rated. And the British are far more concerned than are relaxed continentals with the legal and accounting niceties of inter-company dealings and control.

Continental industrial empires that rely on pyramids of control and leave minority investors in the cold are obsolete. We don't want them here. Most of the benefits now associated with takeovers might nonetheless be achieved far more cheaply and accountably by powerful shareholders, looser federations of businesses, joint companies or asset swaps. The takeover bid is the most over-used tool in business.

Uneconomical . tunnel vision

Consequences. Radio 4.7.20pm.

I do not think this four-part series will please politicians cursed with an inflated opinion of their social or economic know-how. Puture topics to be given rough treatment include the poll tax and care in the community. Tonight it is the masterminds behind the Channel Tunnel who come in for some stick. What began as the dream of enthusiasts is now a fact of life. Peter Jay suggests how, as an economic fact of life, the tunnel's accounts could now be looking beautiful. He is not the only one to say tonight that the his mistake healthier. He is not the only one to say tonight that the big mistake was to rely entirely on the private sector to finance the project. It was an undertaking, he says, that cried out for the public sector to be its sponsor and, ultimately, its financier.

Crimescapes. Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

Amsterdam and Jarwillem van de Wetering are the first city and resident crime writer to be linked in Leslie Forbes's series. Amsterdam would seem to be a safe haven for wrongdoers. Wetering says that everything is tolerated in the city provided nobody else is hurt. Presumably, that is why improvisation is permitted on a church's carillon. Amsterdam has another claim to distinction. Ask a december the matter and the safe that the matter and the safe that the sa dog what the nation's crime prospects are and he will bark his reply. Wetering does not believe people are good or bad. All offenders, he says, eventually "calm down". I wonder how he squares this philosophy with writing crime novels. Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 6.30am Chris Evens 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Jo Whiley, Incl at 12.30pm Newsbeat and 1.15 The Net 12.30pm Nowsbeat and 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Cempbel 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat and 6.15 The Net 7.00 Evening Session with Steve Lamecq 9.00 Cling Film with Mark Kermode and Wendy Lloyd 10.00 Merk Radcilite, live from Manchester 12.00 Wendy Lloyd, incl at 12.15am The Net

PM Stereo, 6.00mm Serah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Brian Matthew 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debble Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewert 5.05 John Dunn Including Answers Please 7.00 Hayes over British with Ed Doolan 8.30 Sinetra: The Other Side (5/6) 9.00 Turn Down the Jamp, an Ideb mistration of series and Lamp, an Irish miscellarry of stories and songs 10.00 Explorer 2 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Adrian Finighan incl at 1.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Steve Madden incl at 3.30 Pause for Thought RADIO 5 LIVE

5,00mm Morning Reports 6.00 The Breaklast Programme 8,35 The Megazine, incl 9,45 DIY Hell, 10,35 Euronews, 11,00 Dirty News 12,00 Midday with Mar 2,05 Ruscos on Five 4,00 John Inverdale Nationwide, with news sport and travel news 5,45 Entertainment News 7,00 News Ettra 7,35 The Tueaday Match: Newcastle v Arsansl and OPR v Chelsea in the FA Premierahip 19,06 News Talk 11,00 Night Edra 12,06 mm Alter Hours 2,05 Up Af Night

12.05cm Alter Hours 2.05 Up All Night TALK RADIO

CLASSIC FM

6.00mm Sandy Werr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raebum 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Maz Dee 10.00 Whele 1.00-6.00am lan Collins

All times in GMFT. 5.00mm Newsday 5.30 What's News 5.45 On the Move 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Man, Machine and Music 7.00 News 7.15 Peter Pan 7.30 New Ideas 7.50 The Planets 8.00 World News 8.10 Words of Falth 8.15 Cancert Hall 9.00 News in German 9.15 Just a Minute 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsdash 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Peter Pan 11.90 Newsdash 11.30 Drama: The Vacilitations of Propty Caner 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 British Today 12.30 Pick of the World 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook All times in GMT 5.00mm Newsday 5.30 Britain Today 12.30 Pick of the World 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outdook 2.30 Mutitrack: Hit List 3.00 News in German 3.15 On Screen 3.30 Omnibus 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News 1.6erman 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outdook 7.25 Faith 7.30 Megamix 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sewsdesk 10.30 Newsdesk 1 9.30 Meridian 10.00 Newsclesh 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Invitation to the Dance 11.15 Anything Goes 11.45 Country Style Midnight Newsclesh 12.30mm What's News? 12.45 Britain 1.00 News 1.10 Press 1.16 On Screen 1.30 Ports of Call 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Andy Kershaw 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Discovery 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Press Pan

WORLD SERVICE

4.00am Early Breeldst 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.90 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsright 6.30 Sonsta 7.00 The Classic Opera Guide 8.00 Concert 10.00 Robert Booth 1.00am Hits Through the Night

VIRGIN RADIO 6.00cm Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dens 4.00pm

6.00mm On Air. Rechmaninov (Biessed is the Man, Vespers); Brahms (Cello Soneta in F. Op 99); Debussy (Marche ecossaise); Bach (Toccata in G); Thomas Linley (Arise, ye Spirits of the storm); Bantock (Celtic Symphony) Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Bach

(Orchestral Suite No 2 in B minor); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor) 10.00 Musical Encounters, Bach (Sei Lob und Preis); Debussy (Syring); Mozart (Obos (Syrinc); Mozart (Obose Concerto); Schubert (Nahe des Geliebten); 10.37 André Previn conducts Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 1: Kyung-Wha Chung; LSO); 11.02 Schubert (An den Mond; Auf dem See); Mozart (Rondo); Bach arr Brahms (Chaconne); Schumann (Symohony No 4:

Schumann (Symphony No 4: Chamber Orchestra of Europe) Composer of the Week Egar. Penny Gore talks to the

conductor Richard Hickox about Elgar's charal works and the influence of his Roman Catholic background. Roman Catholic background.
Serenade, Wand of Youth
Suite No 1; Oh, my warriors,
Caractacus; The Dream of
Geroritius, excerpts; Judas
scene from The Aposties; The
Sun goeth down, The
Kingdom (f)
1.00pm News 1.05 The BBC
Orchestras. The BBC
Scottish Symphony Orchestra
under Pinchas Steinberg
performs Strauss

(Kaiserwaltzer); Schubert (Kaiserwaltzer); Schubert (Symphony No 8 in 8 minor, Unfinished); Beethoven Symphony No 7 in A)

2.15 French Songs by Bizet,
Saint-Saëns, Duparc, Fauré
and Dupont, by John Aler and
Jeff Cohen
3.35 The BBC Orchestras. The
BBC Philharmonic under Yan
Pascal Torteller performs
Filmsky-Korsakov (Suite,
Christmas Eve); Rachmaninov
(Phaconchy on a Themen

(Phagnes Eve), had niterative (Phagenini); Prokoflev (Suite, Lieutenant Kije); Tchalkovsky (Capriccio Italien) 5.00 The Music Machine: Children of Our Time, Jeremy Summetry summarises, the

Summerly summarises the Synthetic Age and meets the thusic police in 2045

5.15 Fairest lete Songbook, lain Burnside talks to the composer Geoffrey Burgon about his song cycle, Almost Peace (f)

Peace (r)
5.30 A Land Without Music?
Andrew Motion on the effects

Andrew Motion on the effects of the First World War, with music by Parry. Elgar, Gurney, German, Butterworth, Bridge, Vaughan Williams and Howells (f)

7.30 Amsterdem Mahler Feativel. Mahler's Symphony No 10; Das Lied von der Erde 9.20 Critistral Resonance Gars. An

9.20 Cultural Baggage: Curs. An exploration of the significance and connotations of cultural

phenomena (2/20)
9.40 Paul Wrantizity. String
Quartets in C, Op 10 No 5; in
8 flat, Op 15 No 3; in E flat,

Op 45 10.45 The Shellbc Show. Jeremy Nicholas with music from the ege of 78pm records

11.30-12.00 Music Restored.
Jonathan Keates introduces a concert marking the 450th anniversary of the death of William Lawes

5.55am Shipping Forecast (i.W orly) 6.00 News 6.10
Faming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30
News 6.55, 7.55 Weether 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45
Thought for the Day 8.40
Harvest of the Cold Months, by Elizabeth David (2/5) 8.58
Weether

Weather 9.00-10.00, 11.00-4.00pm Test Metch Special (LW only). South Africa v England in the first day of the fifth Test from

inst day of the fifth Test from Cepe Town
Suo Newse (FM only) 9.05 Cell
Nick Rose: 0171-580 4444
(FM only). Topical phone-in
10.00-10.30 Newse; Crimescapes
(FM only). See Choice
10.00 Delity Service (LW only)
10.15 Children's BBC
Redio 4 (LW only). The
Fighter by Nicole Jemphrey.
Red by James Nesbit
NB. The following are on FM only
until Apra.
10.20 Woman's Hour. Jenni Murray
meets Belty Parsons, whose
techniques for managing
pregnancy and labour have
transformed childbirth. Serial:
Lions and Liquorice
11.30 Medicine Now, with Gootf
Watts

Watts 12.00 News, You and Yours 12.25pm The Heritage Quiz, with Sue MeoGregor, Christopher Cook, Hunter Davies, Philippe Gregory and Martin

Cook, Hunter Davies, Philippe
Gregory and Mentin
Warnwright 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One (FM, LW)
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; Thirty Minute
Theatre: The Priest Hole.
Alun Owen's last play is set in
Speke Hall, Liverpool, and
was commissioned to

celebrate the centenary of the celebrate the centenary of the National Trust

2.30 Personal Records: Jeremy Nicholas explores the record collection of Robert Hardy

3.09 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan

4.00 News 4.05 Kateldoscope.
Paul Vershan on the

Paul Vaughan on the relationship between culture and evolution

4.45 Family Feetings. The Use of front, written and read by Deborah Moggach (2/5)

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weether

5.55 Weather 6.00 Stx O'Clock News 6.30 Cook's Tour, Ian Histop

cook's Tour, ian Histon applores the life and laughs of the comedian Peter Cook 7.66 News 7.05 The Archers 7.29 Consequences. See Choice 8.60 Science Now (r) 8.30 Reading Aloud. All Parrols Speak by Paul Bowles (r) 9.00 in Touch. Peter White updates the stories that have affected visually impaired people in 1995, and reports on successful campaigns

on successful campaigns 9.30 Kalekloscope (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Owen Bennett Jones

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The
Harpole Report, by J.L. Carr.
Alistair McGowan reads the

second of ten parts

11.00 Mediumwave. People and events that have dominated the media in 1995 (r)

11.30 Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures (r)

12.90 News, incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Mises

12.30 The Late Book Miss Smille's Feeling for Snow, by Peter Hosg (12/15) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 80.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198; MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FIII. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosentary Smith and Susan Thomson

Eric Reguly on the secret mission of Charles Lamb Allen, the Granada TV chief

The man with Forte in his sights

or the past two years, Charles Lamb Allen has held two jobs, one official and one secret. The official one was chief executive of Granada Television; the other was heading the undercover team that was examining Forte in minute

Forte, the international hotels and restaurants group pieced together by Lord Forte and now run by his son, Sir Rocco, had struck Allen as a possible acquisition target. Through Sutcliffe Catering, a Granada subsidiary, he had had dealings with Forte's catering side and wasn't impressed. "It gave us the feeling it was not a well run com-

pany," Allen said. He and Gerry Robinson, Forte's chief executive, thought they could run Forte better themselves and they may get their wish. On November 22. Granada launched a £3.3 billion hostile offer for Forte. Barring a counterbid, Granada will know by the third week

of January whether it has won. Allen, who replaces Robinson as Granada's chief executive in March, is already making plans. He has prepared a list of senior Forte managers he wants to retain to help him to run the company. "There are a couple of people there that could be lead play-

Running Granada and Forte, whose interests would that Granada's designs on

Television and a TV rentals business to the George V hotel in Paris and Happy Eater roadside greasy spoons, sounds intimidating. But the combined group would not be

nearly as big as it is today. Lazard Brothers, Granada's financial adviser, is lining up buyers for the bits of Granada, such as the Savoy group and other "trophy" hotels, that Granada considers vanity operations. It said it would sell about £500 million of Forte assets and there is speculation that Allen and Robinson are preparing to unload much

The very heart of Forte, the luxury Meridien hotel chain, may top that list. Meridien, acquired by Sir Rocco last year for £280 million, has 53 hotels in 35 countries making it the group's top international brand. Granada, however, is not keen on them because the hotel management-contract business in the high end of the market has become exceedingly competitive. Meridien, in spite of its far flung portfolio, is a bit-player by international

standards and may have to go. Allen won't say how extensive the disposal programme will be. But he said he plans "to move forward quickly" in reshaping the company if Granada wins the takeover battle. He has had two years to plan his moves and is astounded

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group of three was assigned to gathering intelligence. Late last winter, it expanded to 12 people and by May the decision had been made to go ahead with the bid. Allen explained that Granada might have moved faster if it hadn't taken time out in 1994 to buy LWT for £770 million and integrate it with Granada TV.

Allen figures that several hundred people — Granada insiders, financial advisers. bankers, accountants and the like - knew about the upcoming bid by the autumn and still no word leaked out. Forte suspected that Granada might be ready to make a move but thought it might go after Pearson, the owner of the Financial Times and Penguin books. It was stunned that its target was a hotels company

instead of a media concern. Why did Granada wait until November? Allen claims the company wanted to announce the takeover attempt on the same day as its annual results. Launching the bid late in the year had another advantage, he said, "It would give us a few days off over Christmas so we could have a break." Indeed, after a month of

Forte remained confidential insults, allegations and gener-couldn't afford one, so I went his cue from Robinson, who for so long. Initially, a core group of three was assigned to Forte declared a ceasefire. Things will be relatively quiet until today when Forte publishes its final defence document. Granada will then have one week to revise its bid. Merrill Lynch, the investment firm, said: "The contest looks evenly balanced at present. An increased offer is likely."

A Granada victory would cap a remarkable career for Allen, who turns 39 on Thursday. He is a fair bit younger than his peers and, even more remarkably, has no TV experience. Yet he runs the biggest TV business in the country and hangs around with the likes of Cilla Black, Michael Barrymore and the cast of Coronation Street The son of a hairdresser, he

was born in Lanark. His father died when Allen was 14 and his mother supported the family by taking a job as a waitress in a British Steel dining room. British Steel seemed young Charles's destiuniversity, he joined the company as an accountant trainee. His salvation was the breakdown of his car. "That was a key motivation for me," he

said. "I needed a new car, but

to a company that offered me one." That company was Gallagher, the London cigarette maker. Three years later, in 1982, he joined Grand Metropolitan in London and landed in its international division, based in Saudi Ara-

For more than four years, he travelled the Middle and Far East. "At one point, I had 38 different nationalities working for me," he said. "I learned how to deal with different people and different cultures. People have different logics." It was in the Middle East that he met Gerry Robinson, who was then chief executive

of Grand Metropolitan International Services. The Irishman hired Allen to run Grand Met's Compass division and they have been inseparable The two led Compass's management buyout in 1988

and its flotation, which made them both millionaires, a year later. In 1991, Robinson brought him into Granada. Televison was a whole new environment for Allen and the creative minds at Granada were terrified that an accountant boss would be disastrous.

had pushed David Plowright. the well-liked Granada TV boss, out the door a few months earlier. Allen, affable and energetic

proved them wrong. He did not do what most new bosses do. Instead of bringing in new managers, he kept most of the existing team in place and switched around their jobs in the belief that employees who are not performing well are poorly directed and not necessarily incompetent.

Taking a genuine interest in TV production also won him kudos. Alien likes to read scripts. He went through the pilot Cracker scripts and decided that the show, as disturbing and violent as it was, could be a hit. He has been well rewarded

for his successes. Allen, who is not married, has a townhouse just off Kensington High Street and a 40ft diesel cruiser Brigadoon. He does not consider himself a workaholic.

Allen has proved remarkably adept at managing different businesses and does not expect many problems in taking on a hotels company if Granada wins Forte. "I'm not intimidated by this; I see this They were sure he would take as a real opportunity," he said.

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The taxman cometh

I DO not want to spoil anybody's new year, but tax expert Geoff Edwards of Grant Thornton tells me that the Inland Revenue is schednled to investigate 38,500 income taxpayers and at least 4,200 companies before this

tax year is out. It will also be "looking at" 3 per cent of all self employed, 42 per cent of all larger companies and 15 per cent of all other companies in its hunt for undeclared income. Last tax year, its investigations netted a cool £6.1 billion.

Edwards adds that with the

introduction of self assess-

ment next tax year, the scope for investigations will widen.

It's odds-on that the Revenue will be putting more of its individual returns, he says. So here are a few tips:

The Revenue is sure to "notice" those who make a late voluntary disclosure of liability: a sole trader's annual pay or a business's margins swinging wildly year-on-year, if you become a taxpayer not known to the IR: and if a "sour person", or a bank, or the DVLA. gives information inconsistent with your return.

Margin Winner

SCHRODER VENTURES has picked Martin Sorrell of WPP Group as the winner of a case of Champagne for his reply to their pre-Christmas questionnaire sent to chiefs of asking "What would you really like for Christmas?". Sorrell quipped: "Another I per cent improvement in WPP's margins and bowling Clive Lloyd — again." Cedric Brown of British Gas opted for "a white Christmas", while Jeremy Marshall of De La Rue, the banknote printer, went for "a strong dose of hyperinflation". Schroder Ventures is sending £1,000 to the charity Children in Need to mark its appreciation for a postbag of

The Times 1000 Companies

Action man

BRENDAN "Have a Go Joe" Russell today becomes the youngest person ever to join the board of merchant bank Singer & Friedlander. Russell packed life. He has spent nearly five years in the Territorial Army and has a passion for diving. Last year he made more than 50 dives in some of the greatest diving locations, although perhaps his greatest plunge - from where his nickname springs — was at Waterloo station. There, in the middle of the concourse, Russell decided to "have a go", coming to the aid of a Tie Rack manager in pursuit of a fleeing and arm-flailing thief. His action was praised by the judge at the subsequent trial, who ordered that Russell be

joined the bank's corporate finance department in 1989.

and although only 33, he has

already had an action-

given a £100 reward. COLIN CAMPBELL

THE PROPERTY AND AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF

RACIO CHOICE

Oh my fur and whiskers, I smell red herring The Choir. Why is it. I wonder that the Chose was in mourning, the Crossland was in mourning, the Crossland was in mourning, the crossland was in mourning. The principal dramatic de the chore of England is a pisted from the Choir. Why is it. I wonder that the Church of England is a pisted from the Choir. Why is it. I wonder that the Church of England is a pisted from the Principal dramatic de the separation of the great songs that the Church of England is a pisted from the Principal dramatic de the separation of the great songs that the Church of England is the England is the Church of England is the England is the Eng

bang but with a miaow. The cat said she had to die." spat the curiously named Spinny towards the end of last night's The Ruth Rendell Mystery: Heartstones (TV). Oh yes? Bit slow with the inopener, so why not just push her off the cathedral scaffolding? I think not

Actually, the fact that one teenage daughter was talking to psychopathic cats came as quite a relief. Until then, I had been under the impression that her sister, Elvira, was turning into one. You're growing fur!" shrieked the housekeeper, who had just seen a plate of sandwiches tossed away by a strangely hairy forearm. "You need help." She needed help? What about us? We had been watching this for an hour-and-a-half and it was getting sillier by the minute. And yet it had all started so

6.00am Business Breakfast (70482)

9.30 Stone Protectors (r) (45145)

10.00 News (Ceefax) (7449983)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (92405598)

9.05 Global Gatecrash: India (s) (4757918)

10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6643024)

Morgan Freeman. (s) (9910111)

1.30 Neighbours (Cee(ax) (s) (64784192)

and Stelanie Powers (2076937)

3.05 Timekeepers Outz (s) (5144821)

5.00 Newsround (Ceetax) (4873043)

BBC1

10.30 Good Morning With Anne and Nick (s) (68579)

12.05pm Pebble Milli Guests are Letitia Dean and

2,50 Regional News (13622666) 1.00 One O'Clock

1.50 Barracek. Project Phoenix. With George Peppard

3.30 Ants In Your Pants (s) (1448192) 3.50 ChuckleVision (s) (1468956) 4.10 Free Willy (Ceelax) (s) (6463799) 4.35 Take Two (Ceelax) (s)

12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather

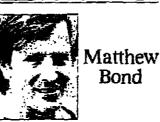
following the death of wife and mother. Anne. The cat, as I understand it, was not implicated ("always very punctual with my meals was Anne"). Canon Crossland's wife had succumbed to cancer, although there was the definite suggestion that her demise might have been accelerated by her husband and family doctor acting in cahoots.

Certainly that was what the melodramatically-inclined Elvira believed. "What are you saying. Elvira?" asked her younger and impressionable sister. "I'm saying ... that Luke and Dr Trewynne poisoned her." With dialogue like

that, I'm not surprised Spinny turned to the cat for company. As I understand it, that and much of the subsequent plot turned out to be teenage delusion, the exploration of which is an

vice employed was to make us believe that it was Elvira who was responsible for the second death. that of Mary the medievalist, who had supplanted her mother - and indeed her - in her father's affections.

ivira made a convincing red herring. There was her name for starters — when did you last come across an Elvira who was a goody? (Mind you, if we had known that Spinny was short for Despina ...) What else? She was anorexic (hence, apparently, the fur), nursed suicidal tendencies and, when not playing sadly on the piano, enjoyed translating Virgil. She also harboured a precocious knowledge of things pharmacological. How many teenagers of your accusintance can hold forth authoritatively about the dosing lev-



els of dimorphia? What - most of

them? I see. Despite the essential silliness of an over-leisurely plot. Piers Haggard, the director, secured two splendid performances from his juvenile stars, Emily Mortimer as Elvira and from his own real-life daughter, Daisy Haggard, as Spinny. Anthony Andrews played their father, Luke, apparently borrowing both performance and

suddenly getting all the romantic leading men?

Earlier, the BBC had given the clearest indication yet that after the success of Pride and Prejudice and The Buccaneers, it is going to be bosoms with everything in 1996. Still, Red Riding Hood mit cleavage was a bit of a surprise. But then this was Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood (BBC1).

From the flames and plaving cards of the opening titles ta teatime slot presumably ruled out the dancing naked lady - underwired is one thing, unclad quite another). it was clear that we were in for another of the author's tales of the unexpected. So it proved, with Dah! providing all manner of twists and turns until the moment when Little Red Riding Hood Unlie Walters, who also played Grandma) was faring certain

6.00em GMTV (2200208)

9.25 Win, Lose Or Draw (s) (4746802)

9.55 London Today (Teletext) (6629444)

10.00 The Time . . . The Place (s) (1493840)

12.55 Home and Away [Teletext] (6067802)

The woodland sets were beautifully created, as was the furry cast using the animatronic gadgetry that seems to be all the rage - you know, eyes that move, ears that waggle. Franz Welser-Most steered the London Philharmonic through Paul Patterson's wonderful score and was rewarded with the driveon part of Little Red Riding Hood's chauffeur. My only criticism was that the piece seemed stretched at 45 minutes and that the ponderous early scenes will have confused as

many adults as it will children. For reasons best known to itself, BBC2 decided that the new year should be marked with music, a decision that met with varying degrees of success. Burt Bacharach ... This is Now was a melodic delight and a highly

arach turned out in the 1960s. With his music now back in vogue, there was no shortage of stars queueing up to pay homage, including Noel Gallagher of Oasis who seems to have appeared on every musical tribute programme I have seen in the last three months. Still, at least we discovered where he got his haircut from. He was a dead ringer for Cilla Black circa 1963, struggling to find what it was all about with this Alfie. "Alfie? You call your dog Alfie."

By contrast, the best thing about Arena: The Burger and The King was its title. Elvis Presley are a huge amount of junk food and died a very fat man - end of story as far as I am concerned, and no amount of fancy editing and funny recipes was going to change my mind. Fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches? Yuk.

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CLASS

5.10 The Demon Headmaster. (Ceefex) (s) (7024734) 5,35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (361208) 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (79)

Terrence Hardiman, lessons in tyranny (5.10pm)

6.30 Regional News magazines (31) 7.00 Holiday, Jili Dando checks out a package holiday to Kerala, southern India. Richard Wilson enjoys what Mexico has to offer, and Paul Gogarty reports. lighthouse in Llandudno (Ceefax) (s) (3821)

7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefex) (s) (43) 8.00 Great Ormand Street. Stories of the young patients of Great Ormand Street Hospital. Three-

year-old Joshua Whymark is the only person in ritain diagnosed with PNP, a very rare immune deficiency, and his only chance is a bone marrow transplant (Ceefax) (s) (9869) 8.30 Next of Kin. Sit-com about

grandparents reluctantly playing parents again. With Penelope Keith and William Gaunt Čeefax) (s) (8376) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceelax) regional news and

weather (2314) 9.30 The Peacock Spring. Concluding the drama from Rumer Godden's novel, set in India in 1959. With

Peter Egan and Jennifer Hall. (Ceefax) (s) (87869) 11.00 FILM: The Mean Season (1985) starting Kurt Russell and Mariel Hemingway. Thritler based on Leon Piedmont's novel which explores the themes

of news creation and manipulation. A Miami journalist strikes up an uneasy partnership with a serial killer who calls him after each murder he commits. As the journalist's involvement with the overall story increases, so does the danger to him and his girlfriend. Directed by Phillip Borsos (Ceafax) (350043)

12.35am Weather (6715154)

BBC2

7.00am Breakfast News (Signed)(6733111) 7.15 Lassie (r) (3864289) 7.40 Albert the 5th Musketeer (r) (Ceefax) (7911444) 8.05 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (Ceefax) (2389549)

8.35 FILM: The Sheepman (1958) starring Glenn Ford, Shirley MacLaine and Leslie Nielsen, Tongue-incheek western in which a sheep rancher runs into trouble when he is victimised by a local big shot. Directed by George Marshall (6845598)

10.00 Playdays (s) (6642395) 10.26 FILM: Johnny Angel (1945, b/w) starring George Raft, Claire Trevor and Hoagy Carmichael. A psychological thriller set in New Orleans. Directed

by Edwin L. Mann (6222734) 11.50 The Fugitive (b/w). (Ceelax) (9068208)

12.30pm Working Lunch (45163) 1.00 Spot (r) (73705289) 1.05 Juniper Jungle (r) (s) (28537289) 1.20 On The Throne (r) (1767666) 2.00 1996 World Professional Darts Championship from the Lakeside Country Club Includes at 3.00 and 3.55 News and weather (5878685)

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Teen comedy (s) 6.25 Heartbreak High. Drama series about the staff and students of an Australian mner-city high school.

(Cee(ax) (s) (238918) 7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show. A double episode of the cult cartoon series. (Ceetax) (s) (916753) 7.30 Local Heroes. (Ceelax) (s)



Mickey Clarke, Liz Barclay, Tony Morris (8.00pm)

8.00 Pound for Pound

8.30 Food and Drink. Sustenance magazine. (Ceelax) (s).(6918)

9.00 FILM: Victim of Innocence (1990) starring Cheryl Ladd, Anthony John Denison and Melissa Chan. A drama about the pressures on a Vietnam veteran and his wife when he brings his Vietnames daughter to America. Directed by Mel Dormski (1685)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceetax) (435937)

11.15 1996 World Professional Darts Championship Highlights (s) (541531)

12.15am Weather (9306319)

12.20 FILM: Milou in May (1989) starting Michel Piccoli, Miou-Miou, Michel Duchaussoy and Harriet Walter French cornedy set in 1968 about a 60-year-old man living a peaceful life in the country with his mother. But her death causes him much pain. It also signals the arrival of his rapacious family. Directed by Louis Malle (860241). Ends at 2.05



Adam Hart-Davis on the ploneer trail (BBC2, 7.30cm)

incal Heroes

BBC2, 7,30nm A lively little series on pioneers of science and invention owes much to the extrovert personality of its presenter, Adam Hart-Davis, With his grey hair and speciacles he looks like a boffin, if a slightly dotty one, while his gaudy pink and yellow cycling gear ensures he will never be lost in a crowd. He first greets us from Clifton Suspension Bridge and fools us by not talking about Brunel. Instead he enthuses over the bright ideas of one Sarah Guppy, including an all-purpose breakfast cooker that makes tea and toast and boils an egg. Funny that it never caught on. More seriously, Hart-Davis salutes Edward Jenner, the Gloucestershire doctor who invented vaccination. For those who do not know the story, it is a surprising one.

Pound For Pound BBC2, 8.00pm

Providing much the same service as Radio 4's Money Box, though in a more popular and flamboyant style, Pound For Pound is a new series on personal finance. Some may find that the style gets in the way of the substance and some of the items are more for entertainment than instruction. An example is giving £100 each to a stockbroker and to a trio of sixth formers and challenging them to double it in five weeks. Against that, there is a solid investigation into the extended warranties that stores are so keen to offer us on electrical goods. The advice is to be wary. And as the first tax-free Tessas mature, the programme asks whether the child born five years ago of John Major's only Budget should be loved or abandoned.

The Demon Headmaster

A twice-weekly drama for children is set in a school totalitarian state. Icily played by Terrence Hardiman, the power-mad head uses his powers of hypnosis to command absolute obedience. Not for nothing is the school motio: "Forge a single will out of the will of many." But this junior version of 1984, adapted by one children's author, Helen Cresswell, from the novels of oppressive than it sounds. The focus is on the resistance to the tyrant, led by a small and heroic band of pupils including two brothers and their newly adopted sister. The trio's kindly Mum is played by Tessa Peake-Jones of Only Fools and Horses.

TTV, 8_30pm

After an above-average Christmas special in Corfu. Richard Harris's sil-com is back home pitching stumps for a new series. The setting may be a cricket club but newcomers who hate the game can be assured that what goes on off the field is as important as what happens on it. What Harris gives us, essentially, is another variation on men behaving badly. Male chauvinism still rules, and particularly on Saturday chauvinism still rules, and particularly on saturday afternoons. The awful Roger and his mousy wife, brilliantly played by Robert Daws and Brenda Blethyn, are comedy creations of the first rank and the support is formidable. A real cricketer, Godfrey Evans, turns up tonight to open the new pavilion. You



CARLTON

10.35 This Morning (57634550) **12.20pm Regional News** and weather (6785289)

1.25 Chain Letters Game show with Vince Henderson (Teletera) (32426647)

1.55 A Country Practice (s) (64789647) 2.20 Vanessa

(Teleten) (s) (18492395) 2.50 Capital Woman (s) (4929821) 3.20 News (Teleten) (2671395) 3.25

12.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (6092111)

London Today (Teletext) (2670666)



Godfrey Evans and Brenda Blethyn (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE Outside Edge. (Teletext) (s)

9.00 FILM: Lethal Weapon (1987) starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover An undercover policeman, disturbed by the death of his wrie, teams up with a stable family-man partner to bust up a drugs ring run by a murderous gan of CIA-trained killers. Directed by Richard Donner (Telelext) Continues after the news (5753)

10,00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Telelext) (71937) 10.30 London Tonight (117799)

(9304194) 11.45 FILM: The Last Dragon (1985) A martial arts adventure starring Taimak, directed by Michael

1.45am Endsleigh League Extra (7905203)

SATELLITE

2.30 FILM: A Jolly Bad Fellow (1964). Satirical drama about a brilliant but unhinged professor who develops a toxin that sends its victims into fits of laughter and then kills them without trace. Starring Leo McKem, Janet Munro, Maxine Audley and Duncan MacRae. Directed by Don Chattey (83777)

4.00 Cowboys in Skirts — The Making Of Rob Roy (r) (28154) 4.30 Dead Men's Tales: To the Last Gasp. Reconstructions of disasters and miraculous escapes (85369406)

4.55 The Time . . . The Place (r) (s) (1052319) 5.30 ITN Morning News (34796). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6,35 amThink Tank (r) (5373173)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (81753) 9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (n (4774685)

9.25 Babylon 5 (Teletext) (5) (7137662) 10.20 California Dreams (r) (1037918)

10.45 Biker Mice from Mars (736/0005)

11.10 Mork and Mindy (r) (s) (9860289) 11.40 Dog City (r) (581595€)

12.00 Creepy Crawlers (r) (3653918) 12.20pm Terrytoons (6776531) 12.30 Sesame Street (\$0376) 1.30 Ovide (76579598)

1.55 Notes: A young classical musician strikes up an univery fuendship (64796937)



Giamorous Betty Grable is on song (2.15pm)

2,15 FILM: Tin Pan Alley (1940) A richly melodic musical the score won an Oscar for Alfred Newman; With Alice Faye, Betty Grable, Jack Oakie and John Payne Directed by Walter Lang (387550) 4.00 Backdate. Valene Singleton hosts the new quiz

(Teletext) (40) 4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (24)

5.00 The Montel Williams Show. Montel challenges guests to stick to their resolutions (Teletent) (s) (9979208) 5.50 Murun Buchstansangur (670983) 6.00 The Avengers, Steed (Patrick Macnee) and Emma (Diana Rigg) fight to prove their innocence after they

are framed for murder (r) (Teletext) (95640) 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (636821)

7.55 The Slot (953444) 8.00 Wild Britain. The bramble, sometimes known as the mulberry bush in East Anglia, provides God and shelter for a vanety of wildlife including snails, slugs.

Roll Harris (r) (Teletext) (s) (2579) 8.30 Brookside. Bev throws a party for Ron, Jacqui has

an unexpected visitor and Gary plans a imp (Teleterd) (s) (4314) 9.00 ER. American hospital drama series (r) (Teletext) (s)

10.40 Sex in a Cold Climate. Women meet for an Ann Summers party and the chance to buy goods ranging from lingerie to sex aids (r) (s) (426289) 11.25 Nurses.

(Telefext)(485192) 12.00 Naked Sport: The Big Pitch A look at the \$25 billion business of American football (r) (Teletext)

1.00am The World of Hammer Frankenstein films (r)

(Teletext) (s) (91425) 1.30 Say Hello to the Real Dr Snide. Dr Snide is Archie's cat and when things go wrong, Archie (Raiph Brown) can blame the cat. There is a

problem, however -- Dr Snide doesn't exist. First

shown in the 4-Play season of short dramas (r) 2.35 FILM: West of the Divide (1934, b/w) Classic, early John Wayne western. Our hero joins a band of outlaws to track the man who killed his parents and

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

ANGILIA
As London except: 9.55em-10.00 Angla
News and Weather (8029444) 12.20pm12.30 Angle News and Weather (6765289)
12.55 Gardens Wintout Borders (6067802)
125-1.55 Home and Away (2429647)
2.50-3.20 Chan Letters (4829821) 3.253.30 Angle News (2670869) 5.10-540
Shortland Street (6559376) 6.25 Angla
Weather (510208) 6.30-7.00 Angla News
227 3.03-01.040 Angle News
(117799) Weamer (5/020) 8387-304 Augus Person [27] 10.30-10.40 Anglia News (117799) 11.45 Prisoner Cell Block H (76/208) 12.40am Firm The Breat British Train Robbery (272661) 2.35 Endsleigh Laegus Edita (4726164) 3.15 Film: The Bobo (972719) 5.00 The Village Show (59851) CENTRAL

CENTRAL

As London except: 9,85-10.00 Central
News (66:39444) 12.20pm-12.30 Central
News and Weather (6785289) 2.50-3.20
Look and Cook (4929821) 3.25-3.30 Central
News (2670565) 4.40-4.45 Wemens Brothers Cartoon (6570869) 5.10-5.40 Shortland
Street (6559376) 6.25-7.00 Central News
and Weather (518565) 10.30-10.40 Central
News, and Weather (177799) 4.30pm Jobstate (2007) 131-5.40 News Feet S205048

AS London except 9.55-10.00 Granada News (662944) 12.20pm-12.30 Granada News (6795289) 12.65-1.25 Shortand Street (6676528) 12.65-1.25 Shortand Street (667652) 12.55-1.25 Chain Letters (75515163) 1.50-2.20 Chain Letters (76557378) 3.25-3.30 Granada News (76567378) 10.4.20 A Country Practice (2670666) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (8559376) 6.25 Granada Torright (518656) 10.30-10.40 Granada News (117799)

As London accept: 9.55-10.00 HTV West Headines (662944) 12.20pm-12.30 HTV Headines (662944) 12.20pm-12.30 HTV West News and Weather (6765289) 12.55 Murder, She Wictle (181598) 2.20 Chain Letters (18497395) 2.80-3.20 Venessa (4929821) 3.25-3.30 HTV West Neadines (2670869) 5.10-5.40 Anmal Country (659976) 6.25-7.00 HTV News (518666) 10.20-10.40 HTV West Headines and Weather (117799) 11.49 Phisoner Cell Block H (769937) 12.35-am Farr: The Great Boben Trein Robbery (300807) 2.30 Endsleph Lesque Edra (2721319) 3.16 Farm The Bobe (003169) 5.15 Sound Bytes (6132828) (903116) S.15 Sound Bytes (6132626)

Wales News (6629444) 12.20pm:12.20 HTV
Wales News (6629444) 12.20pm:12.20 HTV
Wales News 2670666 5.10-5.40
3.30 HTV Wales News (2670666 5.10-5.40
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The Road with Elect (658376) 6.25-7.00
Curr (638483) 7.25 Dudley (888376) 8.00
The Road with Elect (658376) 6.25-7.00
Curr (638483) 7.25 Dudley (888376) 8.00
The Iden with the Gun (1956) (50918) 8.00
In the Ham with the Gun (1956) (50918) 8.00
In the Ham with the Gun (1957) (5543)
10.00 Bird (1971) (199821)
11.35 To the Devil a Daughtar (1975)
(764482) 1.10-3.00em Witi Paster (1975)
(764482) 1.10-3.00em Witi Paster (1975)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 9.55em-10.00 Menidian News and Westher (6629444) 12.20pm-12.30 Mendian News and Weather (6785289) 12.55 Chair Letters (6067802) (6785289) 12.55 Chart Letters (6057802) 1.25 Home and Ausy (32456471 1.5-20) Shortland Street (6478647) 2.90-3.20 Okt Bag's Club (4929821) 3.25-3.30 Mention News and Weather (267066) 5.10-5.40 Home and Ausy (6589376) 4.00 Mendian Tonight (47) 6.30-7.00 Suprese Chels (27) 10.30-10.40 Mendian News and Weather (117799) 11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (768637) 12.35sam Film: The Great Breath Train Robberty (380860) 2.30 Endsleght League Extra (7721319) 3.15 Film The Bobb (903116) 8.15 Music Box Profiles (6132628)

WESTCUUNTRY
As London screept 12.55 Chan Letters
(8067802) 1.25 Emmerdale (32426647)
1,5542.20 Home and Away (64789647)
2,50-3.20 A Country Practice (922821)
5,10-3.40 Home and Away (65589576) 6.007,00 Westcourtry Live (16598) 11.40 Prisoner Cet Block H (789937) 12.35am Fim. The
Great British Train Robbery (366890) 2.30
6rdsleigh League Edite (2721319) 3.15
Fim The Bobe (578319) 8.00 The Village
Show (6104845) 8.15 Sound Bries
(612828)

YUHRDRIHE
As London except 1.55 Errorectale (75556947) 2.26 Varnessa (18481695) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6559376) 5.55 Calendar (355624) 6.30-7.00 Tonight (27) 11.45 Endsleigh League Otta (200596) 12.30am Film: Full Exposure The Sax Tapes Scandol (532116) 2.15 Film: Beau James (312319) 4.10 Profile (18121116) 4.35 Johnforder (200596)

SAC
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (B1753) 9.00
Saved By The Belf The New Class (4774685)
9.25 Babwion 5 (7137682) 10.20 Californa
Dreams: (1037918) 10.45 Baier Mice From
Mass (7380005) 11.40 Mork Arct Minoty
(9890299) 11.40 Dog City (5815956)
12.00pm Creepy Crewiers (61550) 12.30
Gumdrop (99827) 7.00 Sixt Meshrin (84840)
1.30 Firm: Elephant Boy (98256) 3.00 Love
to The Afformson (7005) 4.00 Backdate (40) 4.30 Seved By The Belt The New Class (24) 5.00 S Pump. Uned \$ (6395) 5.30 Count-down (76) 6.00 Newyddion 8/ News (716395) 6.15 Heno (27602) 7.00 Pobol Y

• For more comprehensive THE MOVIE CHANNEL listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday SKY ONE

5.00em DJ kat (2539937) 7.01 X-men [14005 7.30 hapestor Gadget (26940) 8.00 Power Rangers (2889) 8.30 Press Your Luck (10840) 8.00 Court TV (13032) 9.30 Luck 10840 9.00 Court TV (13032) 9.30 Oprah (99647 10.30 Concentration (13096) 11.00 Saly Jessy Rischael (44460 12.00 Jeoparchi (21966) 12.30pm Murphy Brown (59227) 1.00 The Westers (4742) 2.00 Geraldo (80276) 3.00 Court TV (7866) 3.30 Oprah (2529469) 4.15 Undun (870395) 4.15 Power Rangers (812374) 4.40 X-Man (3785024) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (8918) 6.00 The Stripsons (8989) 6.30 Jeopardy (2821) 7.00 LAPD (8647) 7.30 M*A*S*H (8005) 8.00 Chucago Hope (89753) 10.00 Star Tiek: The Next Generation (87550) 13.00 Star Tiek: The Next Generation (87575) 10.00 Star Tiek: The Next Generation (8756) 11.00 Law and Drider (23753) ion (87:50) 11.00 Law and Order (23753) 12.00 Late Show (6604057) 12.45am The Unacuchables (698)970) 1.30 The Edge (90319) 2.00-6.00 Ht Met

SKY NEWS 17 (377) 3.00 The arres (8250) 6.30 Target (\$444) 11.30 CBS Evening News (\$4754) 12.30 am ASC World News (\$4085) 1.30 Tonight (\$1651) 6.30 Soy Worldwide Report (7259) 3.30 Fashton TV (\$8951) 4.30 CBS News (\$2048) 5,30-6.00 ABC World News

SKY MOVIES 6.Damo Quality Street (1937) [53640] 8.00 Damos (1834) [59208] 10.00 Abbent Without Leave (1992) [53043] 12.00 Split Infinity (1992) (72531] 2.00pm A Perfect Couple (1979) (81840) 4.00 The Helicop-ter Sples (1967) (2250) 6.00 Absent Without Leave (1992) (78376) 8.00 Men Without Leave (1993) (7821) 10.00 Gurusom (1994) [717280] 11.35 Aspen Edward (1993) (752046) 3.40-5.10 House 3 (1989) (79386574) SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.30em The Black Knight (1954) (64005) 8.00 Inhumenoids: The Movie (1996) (80550) 10.00 Scooby-doo and the Ghoul School (1988) (51685) 12.00 Fiber and Walk: The Dennis Byrd Story (1994) (70173) 2.00pm Majority Ruie (1992) 189421 4.00 The Februlous Adventures of Beron Munichausen (4192) 6.00 Fiber and Walk: The Dennis Byrd Story (1994) (57043) 7.30 Special Feature (4043) 8.00 The Devil's Bed (1994) (714631 10.00 in the Name of the Feather (1953) (40-30043) 12.15em The Night We Never Met (1993) (571970) 1.55 Balgon (1988) (471715) 3.40-6.00 Fragment of Feat (1971) (79984116) THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Moutes Gold from 10pm to 4em.

8.00em Umbrels Tree (3/14/18/92) 6.30
Fraggle Pock (2/19/3294) 7.00 Wenne the
Poch (6/102/18/17/3294) 7.00 Wenne the
Poch (6/102/18/17/3294) 7.00 Wenne the
Poch (6/102/18/17/3294) 7.00 Dency (3/14/27840)
10.00 Umbrels Tree (3/27/866) 10.30
Fraggle Rock (4/9/36/82) 7.1.00 Mappel
Babes (8565/366) 11.30 Poch Come
(8955/399) 12.00 Oueth Anack (4/8277734)
12.30 pm Dumbo's Cricus (7/5/87/06) 1.00
Wenderland (6/27/48/2) 1.30 Boy Meels
World (1/27/43/617) 2.00 Trunder Abey
(2056/30/5) 2.30 Dency (18/11/314) 3.30
Winne The Proch (9/7/88/294) 4.00 Oueth
(18/3/86/5) 5.00 Crip in Dale (2/06/86/85)
5.30 Danger Bay (9/6/3/728) 6.00 Tozan
(6/18/85/5) 6.30 Oranger Stay (18/87/5) 6.00
Dency (2/5/46/85) 8.00-10.00 Fil.M. Broth-

Deney (20564685) **8.03-10.00** Fit.M. Brothers by Choice (20544821) EUROSPORT 7.30cm Relly Reid (166482) 8.00 Ohmpics (47376) 9.30 Sm Jumping (20531) 10.30 Relly (54173) 11.00 Football (42802) 12.00 Speedworld (51395) 1,30pm Olympics (50598) 3,00 Sumo (84395) 5,00 Pootbal 199071 8.00 Prime Time Bosono (13314) 7.00 Figure Skaling (49006) 8.30 Rally Rad (8314) 9.00 Boong (28396) 18.00 Terms (21482) 11.00 Olympics (63395) 12.00-12.30am Rally Rad (45785)

SKY SPORTS 7.00mm Sports Centro (69579) 7.30 Racing (71314) 8.00 South Africa v England (4816940) 4.00pm Football (76444) 5.00 Wresting (4724) 6.00 Sports Centre (1753) 6.30 Tartan Estra (2005) 7.00 GPR v Cretses (6840685) 1.15 Sports Centre (776005) 10.45 International Cretse: 1134550 12.15mm Tartan Estra (127154) 12.45 GPR v Cretses (18600) 1.15 Sports (127154) 12.45 GPR v Cretses (18600) 1.48 Waltersports (175951) 2.45-3.15 Sports Centre (106661)

10.00pm Hall of Fame Gerd Muller (9409145) 10.30 Galson Gloves with Barry McGurgan (2722821) 11.30-1.00am Super-stars (3227668)

7.00em Guiding Light (1969206) 7.55 As the World Turns (9594227) 8.50 Peyton Place (1364753) 9.20 Days of Our Lines (7262666) 10.10-11.00 Anomer World (2570717) SKY TRAVEL

Travel Guide (5439647) 2.00 Sto Special (1053) 45) 3.00 Getzway (8594208) 3.30-4.00 Boomerang (2615695)

9,00em The Joy of Penning (6074956) 9,30 Grow with Joe (7421208) 10,00 Two's Country (7821579) 10,30 Our House (505394) 11,00 The Panied House (5437821) 11,30 Ruming Repeits (5488550) 12,00 Julia Chief (5054182) 12,30pm The Funct (5074182) Van Can Taggi Gournet (7425024) 1.00 Yan Can Cool (8597376) 1.30 Local Heroes (742436) 2.00 Dogs with Dunbar (3941453) 2.30 Scottl Gardens (1236227) 3.00 Two's County (2960556) 3.30-4.00 This Old UK GOLD 7.00ma Angels (8590463) 7.30 Neighbours (8519588) 8.00 Sons and Daughters (6053463) 8.30 EastEnders (6052734) 8.00 The Bill (6076314) 9.30 The Sullivans 11th Bill (BD/SS14) 9.30 The SUMMATS (742565) 10.00 Howards Way (850482) 11.00 Data: (8595918) 12.00 Sons and Daudriers (655550) 12.300m Neighbours (7427422 1.00 EastEnder: (8599734 1.30 The Bill (7425753) 2.00 The Sullivaria The Bill (742-6753) 2.00 The Sulurans (6168578) 2.25 Are You Benn Serve? (887482) 3.00 Angels (262356) 3.30 Bdorado (1292802) 4.00 Casually (35076173) 5.05 Larry Graycon's Seneration Game (77978250) 8.16 Kermy's Come Cuts (9339666) 6.25 EastEnders (5547460) 7.00 Edorado (264397) 7.30 Happy Ever Afret (120156) 8.00 Whot's Carry On' (9578802) 8.25 Butterfles (7914111) 9.00 The Swootky (1219173) 10.00 The Bill (125792) 10.35 Classic Sport (15381260) 11.40 Camori Cortidental (1749802) 1220ant O Whot's The Sumakus (4013319) 12.50 FLM The

Judy Garland sings Meet Me in St Louis (TNT, 9.00pm, 2.50am)

11 Bloom Carcheter (4089308) 11:30 Trail-Type 14(46:537, 12.00 On Top or the World (248300); 12:30pm Fragai Gourner Cooks Raian (5430376) 1.00 Around the World in 30 Marules (7662685) 1.30

THE HISTORY CHANNEL 4.00pm The Last Days of World Worll (4063260) 5.00 Godsthers v the Law (8578280) 6.00-7.00 Gcorge III (5448395)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

6.00am Swan's Crosting (1956) 6.30 Pugwall's Summer (38482) 7.00 Ready of Not (77869) 7.30 Caldonia Dieams (5836) 8.00 Valley High (29014) 6.30 Tmy TCC (55296956) 12.35pm Tmy TCC (49206173) 2.30 Jen Henson's Animal Show (4452) 3.00 Sonic the Hedgehog (7640) 3.30 Pmi Panimer (6227) 4.00 Carloma Dreams (5234, 4.05, 60 value High (1918)

The Summakers (4013319) 12.50 FILM The

(5734) 4,30-5.00 Valley High (1918)

6.00am Herry's Cal (\$994802) 6.15 Blue. Child of the Earth (517283) 6.45 Toucan Teo. (9645395) 7.00 Bodini (7704376) 7.05 Galermay (6461550) 7.45 Nickloon B Feast (1667753) 9,00 Alvan and the Chap-THE SCI-FI CHANNEL munks 161463 9.30 Per Wee's Plankose (88163) 10.00 Banara, Sandunch (88840) 7.00pm Inside Space (658629) 7.30 Sci Fi 11.00 Children's BBC (55376) 12.00 Magrc

Buzz (2691005) 8.00 Alten Lover (4477937) School Bus (81227) 12.30pm. Gnmmy 10.00 Quter Limits (3914424) 1.00-2.00em (18869) 1.00 Global Guts (59192) 1.30

A.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1219579) 4.30 Paramotics (1208462) 6.00 Treasure Hunters (1995043) 5.30 Teras X (1222043) 6.00 Invention (1229656) 6.30 Beyond 2000 (4879668) 7.30 Ambur C Clarke (1209192) 8.00 Azimuth (4237579) 9.00 Secret Weapons (5467685) 6.30 Bood and Honour (740500) 10.00 Classic Wheels (4210802)

DISCOVERY

BRAVO 12.00 FILM: Donoven's Brain (G211227) 1.30pm Death Valley Days (7411821) 2.00 Danger Man (7619734) 3.00 The Buccaneers (2957024) 3.30 William Tell (1227598)

nees (255-7024) 3.30 William for (122/298) 4.00 PillM Flectro Dreams (255-1840) 6.00 Dead at 21 (1216-482) 6.30 Automan (6215043) 8.00 Space 1999 (422-4005) 9.00 Alen Nanon (4227192) 11.00-12.00 Space 1999 (8501579) UK LIVING

10.05 Jerry Springer (6772314) 11.00 Young and Restless (8184463) 11.95 Brookside (6716560) 12.30pm Dangerous Women (4672460) 1.30 Crosswis (8766260) 2.00 Agony Hour (2350531) 3.00 Live at Three (1387192) 4.00 Infatuation (1822463) 4.30 (1587)92) A.00 Infatuation (1822463) 4.39 Crosmus (1424024) 5.05 Lingo (18294444) 5.30 Lindry Ladders 5.00 Bewindhed (1833840) 6.30 Brookside (2431173) 7.05 Indian Cookery (2284314) 7.40 Joker s Wild (1340966) 8.05 Young and Resiliess (5467227) 9.00 FILM Consenuing Adult (8045918) 11,00-12,00 Line (6061173) **FAMILY CHANNEL**

Calchiphrase (6463) 7,00 Through the Keyhole (9821) 7,30 My (No Daris (2647) 8,00 Film Crincel List (68837) 10,00 Treasure Hunt (47444) 11,00 Neon Rider Bordenown (14406) 1.00 Barmen (56425) 1,30 Rhoda (70593) 2.00 Bag Brother Jako (74408) 2.30 Neon Pader (36593) 3,39 Rhoda (77593) 4.00 Big Brothor Jake (98096) 4.30-5.00 Ocean Odyssay (37390)

N. Bradbury (7992048). Ends at 3.35

(1889) 1.00 Global Guits (\$9192) 1.30 Visconaires (22240) 2.00 Chidrens BBC (11444) 3.00 Pel Shop (1024) 3.30 Teenage Turtiss (3111) 4.00 The Feitats (9918) 4.30 Massion (2482) 6.00 Ren and Sumply (9395) 8.30 Pele and Pele (7537) 7.00 The Colyssey (305) 7.30-8.00 Pracula (9531) Hingrig Cui (145827) 4.00 News (165666) 4.30 Chemistic (1826840) 3.15 Hingrig Cui (145827) 4.00 News (165666) 4.30 Chemistic (1826840) 3.15 Hingrig Cui (1897666) 4.30 Mace Videos (766566) 11,00 Soti (6742);
12,00 Greatest Hris (53956) 1,00pm Muse
Non-stop (50815314) 2,45 3 Irom 1
(8133482) 3,00 Creatmatic (1826840) 3,15
Hangang Cut (1458827) 4,00 News
(898904) 4,15 Hangang Cut (8979666) 4,20
Dat MTV (3376) 5,00 Worst of Most Wanted
(1043) 5,30 Boom/ (7956) 8,00 Hangang Cut
(4869) 6,30 Sports (8821) 7,00 Greatest Has
(4053) 8,00 Worst of Most Wanted (7227)
8,30 Alemative Muser (62531) 9,30 Beams
and Bunthead (54685) 10,00 News (747111)
10,15 Commistic (742666) 10,30 Loydon
(24956) 11,00 The End? (77444) 12,30am
Videos (9650864)

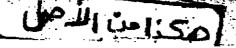
> 7.00am Power Breaklast (7061956) 9.00 Café VH-1 (8925802) 12.00 Heart and Sout (5451869) 1.00pm Viryl feats (5427289) the Music (2553208) 6.00 That Lett (5440753) 7.00 VH-1 For You (4459531) 8.00

6.00em Agony Hour (5967579) 7.00 Neary (90721111 8.00 Esther (9600276) 8.30 Indoor Genden (960647) 9.00 Wales (3531192) 9.35 Nate and Albe (2738005) ZEE TV

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FEEL-BAD FACTOR 33

BUSINESS STARTS 1996 SAPPED OF CONFIDENCE

BUSINESS

BID OVERKILL 34

GRAHAM SEARJEANT ON THE TROUBLE WITH TAKEOVERS

TUESDAY JANUARY 2 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

DTI to seek boardroom ban on Warren faces a ban of between two and IS users if the TYP and IS users if



Warren: he will contest the action

THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is poised to start disqualification proceedings against Frank Warren, the promoter behind some of the biggest names in professional boxing. The attempt to ban Mr Warren, 43, from serving as a company director, follows similar action against Terry Venables, the England football team coach. Proceedings

are due to begin next month.

The move by the DTI follows a four-year investigation, and is linked to the London Arena, the ill-fated Docklands sporting and entertainment venue that collapsed in 1991 with debts of more than £20 million. Mr Warren had a 70 per cent stake in the London Arena, and suffered substantial losses when the receivers went in. The venue reopened in 1994.

similar threat faces Mr Venables, who was informed by the DTI last month that it intended to start disqualification pro-ceedings against him. Mr Venables denied any wrongdoing, and said he would fight the action.

The London Arena, on the Isle of Dogs in east London, opened in 1989 with a concert by Duran Duran, and went on to host other big names, including Pavarotti. But the venue never lived up to expectations, and collapsed under the weight of its debts. Creditors included Landhurst Leasing, the controversial loan company that collapsed in 1992 with debts of £121 million. Landhurst exploited its links with Damon Hill, Johnny Herbert, and other names in British sport, to persuade banks to advance

received E2 million from Landhurst, including £180,000 to finance a Frank Sinatra concert at the London Arena. The arena also received more than £830,000 in loans from Landhurst.

In August 1993, Melvyn Hague, a director of Arena Developments (Europe),

was banned for three years under the Company Directors Disqualification Act. Similar proceedings were reported to be under way against Mr Warren, who was a director of Arena Developments (Europe) and other associated companies. Mr Warren said he had at all times protected the interests of creditors, em-

The DTI investigation extended beyond the London Arena to encompass Mr Warren's wider business dealings. Mr

ployees and shareholders.

went into administration in 1990 owing £2.6 million. Investigators unravelled a string of disastrous deals that resulted in massive losses and writedowns.

Mr Warren was unavailable for comment yesterday, but has previously said that he would "stremuously contest" any action by the DTI. The DTI does not comment on individual cases.

In November 1989, Mr Warren was shot by an unidentified gunman outside a theatre in Barking, east London. Terry Marsh, the former boxing champion once managed by Mr Warren, was charged with attempted murder but acquitted. A long stint in hospital made it difficult for Mr Warren to devote much time to his

His was a classic rags-to-riches tale. Mr

branched into business, renting vending machines to pubs, then fell into boxing after a friend encouraged him to bet on a fight. By the 1980s he was a millionaire. Today, Mr Warren has 20 boxers on his books, and enjoys a profitable association with Don King, the extrovert American promoter. The pair hope to bring Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson together for a title

clash in the spring.
Almost 5,000 directors have been disqualified since the Company Directors Disqualification Act came into effect in 1986. Peter Clowes, former head of Barlow Clowes, is one of only 24 people to have been barred for the maximum 15 years. Robert Miller, former head of Dunsdale Securities, received a ten-year

Labour may merge watchdogs

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

LABOUR has launched a sweeping review that could lead to the offices of water, electricity and gas regulation being scrapped and replaced by one regulator, if the party forms the next Government.

The review, which will form a crucial part of Labour's energy policy. will begin in earnest when a group of industry specialists recruited by the shadow Trade and Industry team starts to draft a fresh regulatory frame-

John Battle, the energy spokesman, said: "It could be that we have just one regulator, but with proper back-up. It's generally agreed that regulation at the moment is fragmentary." Labour has been a stern critic of the regulation of the utilities. Mr Battle said: "This will be a solid review that will stand the test of time. We need a structure robust enough to tackle the free market currents sweeping through energy."

He refused to say which of the regulators, if any, would survive if Labour implements a single regulatory structure for energy. Power reform, page 33

New Look is sold to institutions for £170m

By Martin Barrow

NEW LOOK, one of the UK's largest womenswear retailing chains, has been sold for up to £170 million it was an-

owned business to institutional investors has taken place a year after the founding Singh family aborted plans for a flotation on the stock market.

The deal, signed over the weekend, realises a multimillion fortune - worth five times this week's National Lottery rollover jackpot - for a family that began the business with a single shop in the West Country in 1969.

Tom Singh and his family will receive an initial payment of £155 million in cash and shares. They will receive a further sum of up to E15 million, over the next three years, based on the perfor-

After completion, they will hold a 25 per cent interest in Vallsar, a new company set up for the transaction by BZW Private Equity, which led the

November 1994.

company now trades from 305

shops in the UK and 18 in

France. A further 12 shops are

expected to open by the end of

March. New Look expects to

earn profits of about £20

million in the next financial

year, on sales of £200 million.

BZW Private Equity, said:

"This is a very successful

business and there is significant growth to go in the UK

The deal is a setback for the

new issues market, which had

New Look, which blamed

Graeme White, director of

institutional purchase, and Prudential Venture Managers, the joint underwriters. Mr Singh, 44, and John Hanna and Gavin Aldred, his

nounced yesterday. The sale of the privately

mance of the company.



Arm combat: Granada's Gerry Robinson, left, and Sir Rocco Forte wrestling for the initiative in their £3.2bn takeover battle Man with a mission, page 34

Forte plans put pressure on Granada to raise bid

GRANADA will come under additional pressure today to raise its bid for Forte with the publication of the hotel and catering group's final defence

But Granada is playing down speculation that it will boost its £3.2 billion hostile offer by 10 per cent or more.

The document is expected to reveal plans for an investor loyalty package that includes a share buyback of about £500 million and an increase in the regular dividend, which has been at 7.5p since 1993, when it was cut from 9.91p. It will also assert that the group, shorn of its restaurants division, will report accelerated earnings growth over the next few years

as the hotels sector recovers. The City is not convinced that Granada will win Forte easily. Granada, barring a counterbid, has until next Tuesday to increase its offer.

In advance of the final defence document, Forte called again for Granada to back its claim that it could squeeze an extra £100 million in annual earnings from Forte. Granada plans to break down the figure, but will not do so until early next week because it wants to give Forte as little time as possible to challenge the scenario.

Graham Searjeant, page 34

and in France. The manage-TIMES ment have developed a formula which works well with the consumer and our plan for the future is to expand the format in both countries." hoped for a good start to 1996 after a lacklustre 1995. adverse stock market conditions for the pulling of its flotation, said that it had given fresh consideration to a public that a sale to institutions represented a better way forward. Offers from at least two trade

ACROSS The two together (4) Moved king to safety (7) 8 Small saucepan (7) 9 Allow (in) (5)

- Circus comedian (5) 11 Disputes, questions (lit.) (7) 13 Practical skill; knack (9)
- Coarse grass for paper (7) 19 (Criminal) jargon (5) 20 Disinter (3.2) 22 Wrong, wicked (7)
- 23 Punishment for sin (7) 24 Beginner (4)
- DOWN

 I Find midway point (6)
- 2 Getting bald (4,2,3) 3 Deflate pomposity (3,4,2,4) 4 Character: bang foot (5) 5 Hit hard; OT book (abbr.)
- Execrate (6) 7 Outpatient centre (6) 12 Ribboned Scots hat (9) 14 Scruples, reservations (6)
- 15 Shown: delayed (4.2) 16 Verdi opera after Shakespeare (6) 18 N Yorks cathedral city
- 21 Information: OT book
- SOLUTION TO No 666

SOLUTION TO No 666
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London young face bleak jobs outlook, says report

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MASS youth unemployment in London, leading to deepening economic and social deprian economic assessment of the capital's prospects suggests.

buyers were declined. The study says that by the end of the decade, there will be One remarkable aspect of the New Look story is that 230,000 fewer jobs in London than in 1990 — and that young growth has been achieved with the recession in retailing people will bear the brunt of at its worst. The company began the 1990s with about 70 this collapse in employment because the jobs they traditionally hold are being taken by shops and has more than doubled operating margins in part-timers or married women spite of generally selling goods returning to work, or disappearing as a result of industri-al or technological change. The study is by one of the at a 10 per cent discount to rivals such as Dorothy Per-

Mr Singh, an intensely pri-Government's Training and vate man, developed the first Enterprise Councils, which addozen or so outlets almost minister training. It notes that single-handed, collecting stock the increase in unemployment from London by van and among 16 and 17-year-olds will delivering it to each shop. not show in the Government's

BRITAIN'S first attempt at a cashless society has been slow to catch on. But the founders of Monder, an electronic cash

Bank, with Midland Bank and British

Telecom, still hope that electronic money

will find public favour in its UK trial and

A pilot scheme for the Mondex

electronic money system, which centres on a smart card with a microchip for

storing electronic cash, was launched in

Swindon last July. However, the public

in Wiltshire, who were selected to take

part in a one-year trial for Mondex, have

The card's chip is loaded with money

through special cash dispensers or by using telephone lines to access a bank

been slow to use the card widely.

go national next year.

iobless figures because this age group is unable to claim unemployment benefit.

Solotec, the Tec covering south London, says in its annual economic assessment that "despite improvements in school staying on rates, mass youth unemployment in London is now a real danger". This will lead to "further concentrations of deprivation and deepening economic and

London and the South East, says, experienced a deeper downturn than other regions in the recession of the early 1990s. Although growth in London has accelerated, it is expected to slow again by the end of the decade while industrial restructuring in the capi-tal means that the "continuous haemorrhage" of manufactur-

Smart card slow to catch on

By PHILIP PANGALOS

account. The money can be transferred

between cards by using a special wallet that resembles a pocket calculator. The

cards are ideal for services using pay

machines, such as car parks, pay phones

and even buses, though Mondex sees a big market in pay-as-you-watch television and other developing technologies. Most of the big stores in Swindon have the compact Mondex machines

Mondex had hoped to get 40,000 of Swindon's 190,000 residents to take a

card, but to date it has recruited only

9.000. It may be possible to live a normal

lifestyle, cashless, in Swindon, but few

Roy Pratt, chief manager of Mondex

beside all their cash tills.

have opted to do so.

ing employment has not been fully compensated for by a growth in service sector jobs. Growth in employment is expected to be in sectors such as advertising, marketing and computing, with new jobs largely in administration, technical and professional occupations - not traditionally held by school-leavers. Man-ual and unskilled jobs are set

to continue to decline. John Howell, Solotec chief executive, is calling for "urgent action" to counter the vulnerability to unemploy-ment of 16 and 17-year-olds: This report highlights the need for substantial investment in training and work experience for young people — particularly in the 16 to 18 age into the world of work."

catch on, especially now that the infra-

structure is in place. He sald: "The introduction of electronic cash is, as

much as anything, an exercise in change management and understanding peo-

ple's behaviour. Not everyone adopts a

new technology at the same pace."
For the moment, the Swindon trial is

free to both consumers and retailers.

However, from this spring, cardholders will have to pay for the service. Even a EL50 monthly fee could put potential

The banks and building societies would like Mondex to succeed as it costs

them billions of pounds a year to handle

cash. Another pilot scheme is under way

in San Francisco, while trials will start in

users off the smart card.

UK, remains optimistic that Mondex will Canada and Hong Kong this summer.



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BID OVERKII

■ VISUAL ART 1

A new exhibition at the Tate looks at how black people have been ignored by artists for centuries



VISUAL ART 2

A London showing for the blurred and fragmented visions of the late artist **Aubrey Williams**

THE



POP

After months of doubt, the Manic Street Preachers finally burst back into life with a Wembley gig



■ TOMORROW

From West End musicals to Hollywood films, Times critics pick the hottest tickets in town

Richard Cork on a Tate exhibition of art's treatment of black people; plus other London shows

Old black and white truths in colour

who lived in

Britain were

ignored by

its artists 9

regal attire, Queen Victoria offers a stoudy bound Bible to an African king. Although his status is trumpeted by the feathers, jewels and fur he wears, the unknown monarch bows before his Empress. Outshone by the whiteness of the Queen, and outnumbered by the presence of Prince Albert, Lord Palmerston and

John Russell, he is at once awed and grateful. For Victoria is honouring her imperial duty to civilise the colonies. and this solemn presentation at Windsor is clearly meant to confirm her 6 Black people

magnanimity.
After Thomas Jones Barker painted this supremely smug scene around 1861, the picture also became known as The Secret of. England's the truth is that

to raise

the black people who lived in Britain had been either marginalised or ignored by its artists for a long time.

Four centuries of painting were available to the organisers of the Tate Gal-lery's illuminating exhibition. Picturing Blackness in British Art. Tudor and Stuart portraits are, however, dominated by the fashionably blanched faces of all-white grandees. No room was found in these pictures for the men and women from Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas who had already settled here.

When black people begin to appear, they are regarded merely as exotic baubles. The servant in An Elegant Company Playing Cards, a stilted conversation-piece attributed to Gawen Hamilton, would be easy to miss. He hovers, overdressed and unregarded, on the edges of the scene. Scarcely more important than the household pet beside him, he exists as an amusing adornment for a family determined to boost its status with the latest accessories. At this stage, in the 1720s, black faces were deemed worthy of inclusion in such paintings only if suitably costumed and subordinate to the principal, impeccably white-skinned figures.

All the more remarkable,

then, to find Reynolds devoting a portrait solely to the commanding presence of A Young Black. The Tate's two versions of this half-length painting are studio copies of the original in the Menil Foundation Collection at Houston. But they are noble enough to show that Reynolds invested Francis "Frank" Barber, a Jamaican-born servant, with the dignity accorded to many of the artist's aristocrat-

Would he have been willing to do so if Barber was not Samuel Johnson's favourite servant? The question must

> All the same, the decision to depict a black servant in his own right, unencumbered by his master's validating presence, does suggest a welcome measure of enlightenment. In the

late 18th century, the campaign to abolish slavery was growing in strength. Reynolds's portrait is symptomatic of changing

They reach a climax in this exhibition around 1827, when John Simpson painted an intensely dramatic Head of a Negro. He looks to his right, just as Barber had done, and both of them are set against freely handled backdrops suggestive of the sky. Simpson's sitter, though, appears more robust and independent. Unlike Barber, whose ruff betokened a man expected to dress correctly at all times, the Negro wears a smouldering maroon jacket slashed open to reveal a prominent expanse of dark, muscular chest. He looks rugged and free, in fullblooded Romantic contrast to Reynolds's more discreet sitter. Bold white highlights sing out from his eyes, accentuating the swarthiness of the surrounding flesh. And his pupils are trained upwards, offering further proof that his horizons are less limited than Barber's had been.

But the improvements should not be exaggerated. Only a couple of years after Simpson's picture, Benjamin Robert Haydon's Punch or May Day places the black man firmly in his former



position. Although a generous foreground space is allotted to a chimney-sweep, celebrating the festival by dancing as a costumed Jack-in-the-Green, he may well be a white man in sooty make-up. Far more tell-ing is the black servant in the background, mounted on a coach taking a wedding couple away from Marylebone Church. Bride, groom and coach-driver gaze at the pullulating panorama of street sellpick-pockets and entertainers, but the black footman is expected to stare straight ahead, denying himself the pleasure of scanning

street life. The truth about British attitudes in the 1860s was disclosed half-way through the decade, when Dante Gabriel Rossetti concocted his sumptuous pre-Raphaelite fantasy

called The Beloved. . The prominence accorded to the black girl in the foreground might suggest, moti wanted to laud her beauty. Burra finds an exotic allure in genuinely multi-racial act of However, she stares out at us the denizens of 1930s Harlem, renewal, created by an artist with a troubled expression. Perhaps her frown indicates an awareness that she is simply a foil for the dazzling whiteness of the beloved, who has pulled aside a bridal veil to show off the unblemished sheen of her skin.

er absolute confidence, buttressed by the admiring attention of her equally pure Caucasian handmaidens, makes the black girl's gaze seem even more perturbed. Although bedizened in jewellery, and proffering a bouquet to mistress, she appears nothing more than an outlandish adjunct to the bride's refulgent

charms. After such questionable headiness, it is a relief to reach the 20th century and find black people given adult status and places them on a street stagey enough for a sanitised musical version of ghetto life. But Burra makes clear his admiration for the sexy, stylish agility of the nonchalant young man flicking his ash on the pavement. The white English artist, finding himself for once in an outsider's position. relishes and maybe yearns for the supposedly unselfconscious vitality of black

culture. The divide is still keenly felt here; but if Stanley Spencer's great painting of The Resurrection, Cookham had been included in the exhibition, a far more unifying vision would assert itself. For Spencer universalises his monumental canvas by showing. next to the church porch, a group of black men and women rising from the suncracked earth. They join the

who refused to set any narrow ethnic boundaries around his redemptive vision. The absence of Spencer's

masterpiece, on view elsewhere in the Tate, made me realise how rewarding a larger exhibition on this theme would be. On the present occasion, only two artists are chosen to represent contemporary work by black artists. Both Sonia Boyce and Lubaina Himid make memorable contributions, but they could easily have been accompanied by others. I hope Picturing Blackness leads on to further and deeper explorations, promoting an enlarged awareness of the myths which continue to hamper our understanding of what the word

"British" really means. • Picturing Blackness is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000) until Mar 10

Promises for a golden future

WHILE the carpet was rolled back and the Britpop party raged throughout 1995, these two bands might have seemed to be in the kitchen staring at their shoes. In truth, both the Roses and the Preachers were turning adversity into strength.

The Stone Roses, as

documented in these pages recently, ended a year of upheaval and backlash by doing the right thing: putting themselves before a still-ador-ing British public. The fiveyear hiatus after the Roses' droolingly-received 1989 debut album meant that they spent much of the past 12 months fighting against their own reputation. But a few weeks back in the trenches of live work meant that by the time they got to Wembley, they were cutting an impressive swagger, both on booming anthems such as I Wanna Be Adored and Waterfall and the Second Coming ballad 10

Storey Love Song.
But by then, the evening had aiready become one to remember for another reason. They may put a plaque up outside this chilly citadel to mark the place where Manic Street Preachers came back to

The much debated disappearance of the group's rhythm guitarist and lyricist Richey James cast the Manies into an uncertainty that was itself a tribute to their fellowship. James's absence threw into doubt the very future of a band that, in three albums

POP

Stone Roses/Manic Street Preachers Wembley Arena

since 1992, had become one of Britain's most vital, most fiery rock properties.

With no word on James's fate, the remaining members decided only recently to enter the studio and begin work on a new record as a three-piece. and this guest slot served as a statement of that intent. In the process, it yelled from the rooftops that, even if a part of their inner selves is still AWOL, the Manics are ready to re-emerge mightier than ever in 1996.

In just 40 minutes, and with no verbal reference to the anguish that led them here, the band vented themselves on angry versions of You Love Us and From Despair to Where. But with lead singer and guitarist James Bradfield more of a linchpin than even in earlier days, they opened a chest of sparkling new songs including Design for Life and Everything Must Go that, with synthesizer detail bolted onto their guitar framework, showed a new maturity that was truly invigorating. From despair to here. and then respectfully upwards.

PAUL SEXTON

Baroque of ages

APART from the festive crackers spread around the refreshment room, New Year's Eve here was essentially a serious-minded celebration of the past in terms of the present, with a finely ordered programme of (mostly) 17th-century baroque music by the King's Consort, directed from the organ or harpischord by their founder. Robert King. He had called up a couple of shadowy musical ghosts to stand alongside the more substantial shades of

Bach and Telemann. The music of Pavel Vejvanovsky, a Moravian composer who spent all his life at a provincial ecclesiastical court, has evidently caught King's ear to an extent that he promises, in his admirably fucid programme notes, further future exploration of it. From what I heard here, including a jaunty Sonata Natalis for the Christmas season, it sounded decently crafted yet without much ar-

resting spark about it. Christian Geist, on the other hand, a provincial German musician who found some repute at the Swedish court in Stockholm, favoured an elegantly expressive style that touched deeper sources of feeling, at least in his setting of the German Lord's Prayer so eloquently sung here by James Bowman. The beauty of his

RECITAL

King's Consort Wigmore Hall

counter-tenor tone elevated this familiar text to the calibre of a passionate aria threaded over strings and continuo.

But this was eclipsed by the same singer's superb delivery of a sorrowing Lamentatio by Johann Christoph Bach (uncle of Sebastian). The word-painting of the text is infused with wonderfully poignant harmonies of voice and strings, to which the theorbo added its distinctive twang to melancholy effect.

The soloist's impeccable style and flexible technique was further extended in a Sebastian Bach cantata, No 170, Vergnügte Ruh' (O blessed rest), three arias separated by confident recitatives and the first and last arias adorned with grace and spirit in the oboe d'amore solos played by Katharina Spreckelsen King's unobtrusive but secure direction throughout ensured a constantly benign balance of ensemble giving its benediction to an old year's music.

NOEL GOODWIN

ARBUND THE SALE ERIES

n the paintings of Aubrey Williams's Cosmos Series a number of sparkling. splintered elements spin off against a very dark ground. These are some of the last paintings that Williams made before he died in 1990, and in many ways they anticipate much contemporary painting. with its blurred and fragmented vision. But there is nothing

27 DEC - 27 JAN

WYNDHAM'S THEATRE

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random about their organisation, or the thinking behind them. In these images that suggest the idea of lift-off into space, Williams, after three decades of painting, evokes the process of achieving an over-view, a grasp on reality. At the centre of each of the main pictures are clusters of jostling activity: microbes, mountains, or the sights of a gun erupt

into a sulphuric atmosphere. creating a deliberately ambiguous sense of scale. The October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1 (0171-242 7367), until January 27 ☐ Virginia Verran's recent

paintings use a skid of brush and a flicker of light against dark to suggest changing speed. The paintings are often large enough to reach from floor to ceiling at the Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery. They seem positively to swell, bursting with blurred colour and detail in salmon pinks, reds, and purply-brown blacks. In this rich field of colour, fine sharp points of paint provide sudden opportunities for physical and mental focus, punctuating an otherwise difficult visual journey. If the paintings describe anything at all, they seem to be about the aftermath of an incident rather than the thing itself, a struggle for clarity of vision and memory. Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery, 17-18 Gt Sutton Street, London EC1 (0171-250 1962). until January 20

As the culmination of a fiveweek residency at Camden Arts Centre, the sculptor Keith Wilson has collected a great deal of furniture and brought it back to base. The result is Theft by Finding, a series of arrangements of that furniture in one of the main galleries. Each individual



Nebulic Cluster, 1985, one of the paintings from Aubrey Williams's Cosmos Series

piece treads a precarious path between its formal artistic potential and its functional associations. Without really transforming anything. Wilson manipulates the individual elements, making them lean, lie, and sit in touching and humorous relationships to each other. The "true" nature of a filing cabinet. musical instrument case, bed. tin bath, stepladder, or desk. remains the same, and yet is fundamentally altered. This work has none of the gravitydefying, virtuoso manipulation that characterises much

current sculpture, but instead encourages free association based on the objects' current position in the gallery and their past use elsewhere. Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 (0171-435 2643) to January 21

☐ Artists' books zigzag across display tables, while framed works on paper, with fine line and occasional flat colour, hang on the walls. The often rather precious medium of the art book is given a somewhat more solid and robust form in Partwork, a successful col-

laboration between the abstract painter Julia Farrer and the experienced printmaker lan Tyson. Sections of colour are held tight in wedges, while fine black lines impose a monochrome geometric order. The merging of the two disciplines has successfully overcome any deadening notions of formal purity in either

medium. The Eagle Gallery, 159 Farringdon Road, London EC1 10171-833 2674) until January 20

SACHA CRADDOCK

Royal National Theatre Mother Courage and her Children by Bertolt Brecht n a new version by David Hare



"Brecht's greatest play has received one of the greatest productions it has ever had, or is ever likely to have, from Jonathan Kent... Diana Rigg gives the most tremendous performance of her career" Sunday Times

Box Office 0171-928 2252 Olivier Theatre: Tonight & Tomorrow at 7.15pm. Thurs 4 Jan et 2.00cm & 7.15cm & continuing. NATIONAL

At the cutting edge of the beauty business

A-Z OF COSMETIC SURGERY

has had a bad press. Ministers, anxious to cut the NHS bill, invariably discuss cosmetic surgery in dispuraging terms and still refer to it as if its only role was to pander to conceil by attempting to give a vouthful appearance to ageing

Cosmetic surgery does indeed make people look younger and brighter, but by doing so may after the lifestyle of the patients, boost their sense of wellbeing and self-esteem, and thereby improve their job opportunities, increase their interests and extend their social horizons. Cosmetic surgeons and dermatologists whose work involves erasing the ravages of time from the contours and complexion of the face — report increasingly brisk business.

As life in the cities and professions becomes tougher and less considerate, many older people, rightly or wrongly, feel threatened by youth and want to blur the age difference. Barristers, accountants. City solicitors and financiers of both sexes have joined the beauty-conscious woman in asking for the shadows and bags to be removed from under their eyes, wrinkles to be ironed out, and sagging faces to be lifted. Men have not only been investing in products to stimulate hair growth. but have also increasingly been turning to cosmeric surgeons for hair transplants.

TECHNIQUES

TECHNIQUES in face-lifting have improved enormously in the last few years. The fear that after surgery a face would look as taut as the Duchess of Windsor's, or that, like an earlier Duchess of Marlborough, the patient might have to remain hidden from society. is now unnecessary, provided that a good surgeon is employed.

But face-lifting, even with keyhole surgery, is still very complex and requires great skill and a detailed knowledge of anatomy if the result is to be pleasing. Most sears are almost entirely hidden in the hairline - above or behind the ears - and any in front of the cars soon fade.

If there is a price to pay for losing the flabby skin of the neck, the sagging jaw line and the drooping mouth, it is tortunately usually no more than bruising, or a transient numbness where a nerve has been damaged. Very occasionally the injury to the nervecauses permanent damage. and sometimes, particularly in smokers, a poor peripheral circulation leaves a wide scar which the hair cannot hide.

NOSES AND EARS

MANY patients opt for minor degrees of facial reconstruc-

agging jaw line, baggy eyes, flabby breasts, prominent nose? Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the latest ways in which medical science can achieve a new, improved you

above the eye and

stitching. The scar, usually a fine one. is

hidden in the eye-

brows and the natu-

A surprising

number of people

are concerned

about shadows

around the eye; they feel that

this not only looks unattrac-

rive but makes them appear

There are three courses for

excess eye shadowing. If the

veins are too close to the skin,

laser treatment may help but

the results are often disap-

pointing. More often there is

increased pigmentation which

gets darker as the patient

The tendency to excessive

gmentation is usually famil-

ial, but rather than blaming

ancestors, it would be better to

ask your doctor to arrange

ultrapulse carbon dioxide la-

ser treatment. Professor Nich-

olas Lowe of the University of

California and the Cranley

Clinic in London says that this

procedure is usually very eff-

ective, particularly when the

pigmentation is darkest on the

inner side of the orbit nearest

to the nose. Similar treatment

with the laser is useful for

removing excessive pigmenta-

tion around the mouth or the

brown spots caused by acne or

the damage caused to the skin

Finally some eyeshadowir

is literally just that: shadows

caused by loose bags under

the eyes. These people would

SKIN

RESURFACING of an age-

worn skin can be achieved by

chemical peeling agents, or by

dermobrasion, in which the

surface layers of the skin are

mechanically worn away by an abrasive wheel. Hyper-

pigmentation, roughness and line skin wrinkles can often be

removed, or the creases filled

out, by the use of Retinova

(tretinoin), which needs to be

applied daily for several

months. It is not recommend-

ed for those people who have a

personal history, or even a

family history, of some types

of malignant skin cancers.

and must not be used by

Deeper lines and the craters

left from acne need filling out

with liquid collagen injections.

These are not everlasting and

need to be repeated compara-tively often. A face-lift will

pregnant women.

benefit from blepharoplasty.

by a lifetime in the sun.

grows older.

permanently tired and ill.

ral skin creases.

tion. Noses and ears cause constant anxiety. An excessively large nose embarrassment. teasing and even bullying of children at school. Most but not all — adult

men learn to tolerate it, but for a woman it can remain a cause of misery.

Not surprisingly reshaping noses was one of the earliest challenges faced by plastic surgeons, and they have now hecome very proficient at it. The most common problem faced by the doctor practising rhinoplasty is dealing with a nose which is too prominent. In these cases the width of the nose has to be narrowed as well as the bridge lowered.

A flattened nose, whether from inheritance, injury or surgery, can also cause embarrassment by, for instance, making the most amiable person look like an aggressive pugilist. Augmentation rhinoplasty, the insertion of additional bone or cartilege to restore or even create a better framework, can revolutionise somebody's face and at the same time alter other people's perception of the character

Bat ears are operated on from the age of six onwards and are usually corrected in childhood, but there is no technical reason why the surgery cannot be performed on an adult. The procedure involves the remodelling of the cartilage in the ear but the scaris behind the ear and is not noticeable after the operation.

EYES

BAGS under the eyes and drooping cyclids are perhaps the most common complaint. Blepharoplasty is the surgeon's answer to the anxiety. The surgeon removes sur-

plus skin from the eyelids, tightens up the muscles, and takes away any excess fat which is deposited around the eyes. The patient then looks younger and much more alert. Financiers, male as well as female, who are bright and thrusting rather than laid back and inscrutable, frequently request blepharoplasty. Their friends find it hard to pinpoint the difference afterwards, merely remarking on how well they look. If the eyebrows droop as well, these can be hitched up by the incision of a piece of skin

BARCLAYCARD

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1st January 1996.

of Use are amended accordingly.

but tends to leave the deep verticle lines which form around the mouth, and collagen injections are necessary to

NOT ONLY faces but also bodies can be remodelled. plants are now made of either

sova oil or saline. Breast reduction in appropriate cases can be very successful and transform a vounger woman's social life. Patients need to discuss the operation, and their feelings about it, in detail with the surgeon before it is undertaken. for sometimes anxiety over breast size can conceal deep psychological concerns. Afterwards the breast is scarred, but many women prefer a few neat scars to disproportionately large bosoms which they see

A FLABBY stomach inevitably causes distress and cannot always be hidden by clothes. Surgeons can remove excessive skin by an operation known as abdominoplasty, but, as with breast reduction. it leaves scars. The scars after abdominoplasty run from above both hips right across the lower abdomen, with the further small scar around the umbilicus, which has to be repositioned in its former natural spot. When there is an excessive roll of fat — the traditional spare tyre - modification by abdominoplasty allows the tissue to be cut away en masse. Liposuction

wrinkling, thinning hair, a belly, receding chin, or just an ageing face. 1996 could, with the help of a member of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, be very different.

The association produces booklets for doctors and the general public about the advantages and, perhaps even more importantly, the disadvantages and possible sideeffects of the various operations performed by its members. General practitioners will be able to advise on the particular skills of any of the surgeons listed in the membership booklet, discuss the desirability of surgery, and arrange for referral to the

• The British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons. The Royal College of Surgeons. 34-43 Lincolns Inn Fields. London WC2A 3PN



Breasts can be tightened and augmented, and the laxity which so often follows childbirth can be corrected. Some women worry that their breasts are smaller than average, and they feel others think of them as being less feminine than they would wish. Although the medical evidence has largely exonerated silicone implants, doubts as to their safety remain, so most im-

as a source of embarrassment.

STOMACH

can be used to remove smaller collections of fat. If your concern is excessive sagging jaw line, baggy eyes, flabby breasts, protuberant

appropriate specialist.



ncreasing demand for cosmetic surgery for men is extending to L breast implants to improve the appearance of the male chest. The prospect of adding an effortless extra inch or two to the pectoral area is enticing men to the clinics that have, up to now, catered mainly for women.

مكنامن الأصل

The Harley Medical Group, which runs four clinics around the country, says a fifth of its clients were men in 1993 but the proportion rose to a third in 1994 and increased again last year.

The most popular male operation is a rhinoplasty — surgery on the nose, usually to reduce its size or smooth out a bump on the bridge. Breast reduction among men who have acquired excess flab on their chests is also frequently requested. This is achieved by liposuction, which involves inserting a needle and sucking out excess fat.

However, breast augmentation to swell the pectoral muscles is in growing demand. Diane Hanson, manager of the Harley Medical clinic in Birmingham, says that nationally the group is doing two such operations a week. About half of them are hody builders making the finishing touches." she says. "They expose their bodies more than most of us and are conscious of the way they look. Many have a good physique, but there may be one part of their body where they feel they are

The operation costs £3,500, the same

Jeremy Laurance on

a boom in male surgery



Bodybuilders seek pecs appeal

as for a woman, and involves the insertion of silicone implants from one to five centimetres thick behind the pectoral muscles, to throw them for-

In men the implants are inserted through an incision under the arm. where the hair will conceal the scar. In women, who are more likely to shave under their arms, the incision is usually made at the base of the breast.

Stuart, 29, had implants two centimetres thick inserted last November. A sales manager with a company in Birmingham, he has told no one about

I work out three or four times a week." he says. "I have a very good physique but I lacked pectoral develop-

ment. When I undressed, it just didn't look right."

Before surgery he had a 46-inch chest and a 30-inch waist but was embarrassed about his appearance. It stopped me going on holiday," he says. " wouldn't take my shirt off for anybody. Even my parents don't know about this.

I was quite a skinny lad until I took up body building six years ago. Everything else developed except this — I have big shoulders, big arms, a big back and legs. It made me miserable."

At five feet eight inches tall, he now weighs 15 stone, up from 912 stone. But despite a punishing exercise regime. his pectorals refused to develop. He has previously had liposuction to keep his waist trim. He says the implant operation was worth the money. "I am not bothered what others think about me. It is the way I feel about myself that

Unlike augmentation, breast reduction is cheaper for men — at between £2,000 and £2,500 — than for women. who are charged £4,000 to £4,500. The operation is more complex in women because of the presence of the mammary gland. "It is much more intricate and involves a lot more surgical tailoring."

Ms Hanson says.
The Harley Medical Group's clinics perform more than five times more breast reductions than augmentations on nien. Among women, breast augmentation is more popular.

> ing titanium chambers in their limbs. Titanium chambers being more expensive

than rabbits, he returned to the tested animals after experiments to retrieve his

was impossible because the metal had fused to the bone.

Realising the dental potential

of his discovery he set about

developing the implant sys-

tem - and to this day the

Branemark implant is ac-

knowledged as one of the best. And thus future genera-

tions of dentists may find

The benefits of a dental implant

Smile, please, and Good News for Cardholders say titanium Notification of an Interest Rate Change

WHEN Martin Amis spent £20,000 on his teeth, in January 1995, the press went wild at his apparent profligacy. What kind of dental procedure could cost the same as a new BMW? The answer, it turned out, was implant reconstruction, one of the greatest - and yet least publicised developments in modern

cosmetic surgery.

Michael Morton, one of fewer than ten British dentists who practise the operation exclusively, says the continued low profile of dental implants is due to a lack of media interest in teeth, which has kept public awareness down, and to the fact that in Britain we still do not expect to pay for dentistry. "In America. Italy. and France," he says. "where private dental care is long established, there is much greater demand from patients.* Amis, indeed, was

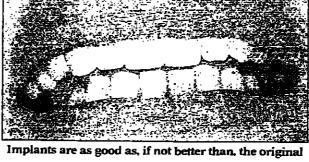
It is a remarkable opera-

tion. A titanium root - a sort

treated in the US.

of hollow screw - is screwed into the jaw bone and site of the original root. A titanium post is then screwed into the root and protrudes through the gums into the mouth. A gold and porcelain tooth is built around it, resulting in a chopper that is as good as, if not better than, the original. "Imagine a young person

has had a cycling accident and knocked out a tooth," says Mr Morton, whose Dental Implants — A Guide for the General Practitioner is the only British book on the subject. "He will have four options. He can have a bridge, which involves cutting down the two adjacent teeth and damaging them permanently. He can have an adhesive false tooth, although research suggests it will come off at least once a year. Or he can have a denture, which involves a great plastic plate in the mouth for just one or two teeth. Any professional sportsman who has teeth



nissing when he plays, but a viewed, has probably got one

"An implant, however, is a preservative rather than a destructive operation, for it is shown actually to stimulate and maintain the jaw bone. If the patient subsequently breaks his jaw, it will not break at the implant point because the fusion is stronger than bone itself."

The cost of each osseointegrated implant (as opposed to earlier implants, which merely sat in scar tissue above the bone) is around £1,000.

Dental implants have been performed in this country for the past ten years, but it was as long ago as 1965 that a Swedish scientist, Professor

Branemark, made a fortuitous discovery in the tradition of Alexander Fleming's penicillin breakthrough.

He was studying bone-healing in rabbits by implant-

patients paying them a visit in the hope of being given

GILES COREN



Just why do people overeat?



chance of finding a cure for greed, whatever theories the scientists come up with to explain the tide of obesity, says Nigella Lawson

are nice people. They want us to feel better about ourselves. What's more - selfsee, co-exist - they want us to know that it is they themselves who can make us feel so much

All those men and women in their white coats have been beavering away in their labs with their rats and their mice, struggling to come up with a miracle pill that will make it easy for us to lose weight.

Just a day or so ago, some of their number announced that breakthrough had been

made: the gene that may be responsible for appetite regulation would appear to have been discovered. In other words, no longer do the overweight have to put up with being blamed for lacking in willpower what they make up for in greed: they are exculpated; they can simply

fect, genetic excuse. What a comforting message for all of those depressed about their seasonal weight gain and the prospect of the regulatory diet ahead. Happy New Year to

But, of course, it's not quite like that, is it? There seems to be an enduring fallacy that those who overeat do so because they are hungrier than those who eat less. Within reason — that's to say, within a narrowish band — it might well be the case. But I have never met anyone who overeats steadily - enough to put on troubling amounts of weight - who does so purely

out of rampant hunger. have added to your bulk over Christmas haven't done so because you unaccountably felt hungrier then. You have overeaten because you were

注报了——

対象がよい。

5. 8029 AS

James Carlot Co

Carlot

There's fat

wasn't much else to do except eat it. That's the truth, isn't it? Any time I have put on weight, it's been because I've eaten regardless of how unhungry I am. So-called comfort eating (I say, socalled, because any comfort the food brings is fleeting and overridden by the discomfort, both physical and mental, that follows) is not prompted by actual hunger. That would be much easier to satisfy. And the difficulty with starting to eat when one isn't hungry is that

surrounded by food and there

there is no cue to stop. Whatever the scientists may say about leptin — the protein

The trick

is to eat

hungry,

and stop

that they think might regulate appetite - as long as people are able to eat without feeling the faintest twinge of hunger, they will only when continue to do so. And interestingly. many studies have shown that most obese people are not deficient in when not' leptin anyway. What scientists have thus conclud-

ed is that there is, in fat people, defective receptor in the brain which prevents the signal from the leptin getting through. I'd be interested to know whether overeating itself — and I mean serious overeating, over time - can throw this receptor off. Because we all know, too, that it is overeating in the first place which makes us feel that

If anything, people who are overweight tend to feel less hungry than those of normal weight. Maybe that's because one of the symptoms, if one can call it that, of the overweight is a fear of hunger. If you eat too much, too often, you will never be in a of being hungry.

we need more food. It's self-

When tests have been done on this subject, what's indeed been found is that people of



about average weight tend to use the internal cues of hunger as a prompt to eat, whereas those very much above average weight are stimulated by external cues. In other words, they see a plate of cakes or a table laid with food and immediately consider themselves hungry, whereas it hadn't occurred to them that they were hungry before the delicious vision appeared in front

I must admit I have some sympathy with this way of ing. However full-up i am halfway through eating, I find ossible to leave anything on my plate. That's in part due to my upbringing, but also because I'm greedy. Indeed, I have been a restau-

rant critic for more than a decade, and now write a food column too, and would find both hard without the ability to eat - and what's more to eat pleasurably -- when not

Obscene as that sounds, that's the obvious truth. The trick is, though - and it's the only trick and, therefore, no trick at all - to eat only when hungry, and stop when not. most of the time. Simple and irritatingly true though this is. it isn't, I admit, always easy to

I wonder, anyway, whether isn't a more normal response to overeat with an overabundance of food than it is to show admirable restraint. Our natural im-

pulses are surely to store up energy supplies: the Homer Simpson-like desire to eat whatever's available whenever it's available must be, somewhere along the line, biologically determined.

do not mean by this to go over to the other side, as it were. The essence of civilised behaviour is anyway to override the diktats of nature.

Furthermore, from what I can gather from the writings of a larger body of scientists that have come up with the newest key to weight loss, it is not the increase in calorie consumption that is making us fatter, but a decrease in calorie expenditure. In other

words, we don't need to eat less, just exercise more. Everyone has something invested, however, in coming up with a more comfortable solution. One can hardly imagine the fortunes to be made from

And, of course, it takes the heat off us, too. We don't - we think - have to struggle ourselves if there's a pill that

could do it for us. But it is strange, because if there's one thing we do know, it is that if calorie consumption exceeds calorie expenditure l put on weight. Tests then w upon tests have been carried

that truth. Those who claimed to eat like a bird but never lose weight were found, on an even only slightly reduced caloric diet, to lose weight; those who claimed they could eat whatever they liked without putting coming up with the miracle on an ounce, were given a weight-loss pill, regardless of higher-calorie diet and, withwhether it works in the longout any extra exercise to burn those calories off, dutifully put

But this, I think, is the most telling: some weeks ago, a group of scientists found that their laboratory mice had all put on weight. To make them lose it, they didn't faff around with chemicals and drugs and faulty receptors and what have you. They simply reduc fat in the mice's diet and nothing to do with it. out on people, and nothing has

increased the fibre. The mice shed their excess weight, as indeed the scientists knew they

But I do agree, it's easier for the mice. They cat what they're given. Rather more effort is required from those of us who face the temptations of the overstocked delicatessen and supermarket and, consequently, the overstocked fridge.

Overeating is practically an occupational hazard of being alive in the consumer age. But one shouldn't get too puritanical about it: flesh is not something to be abhorred, nor food something to be disdained. In culinary matters I concede: greed is good.

But hunger has absolutely

Quentin Letts meets Madhur Jaffrey on her home ground — not Delhi or Surrey but Manhattan

those bottles of expensive scent. On her side it should read: "New York. London. Delhi." From the frequency of her appearances in Britain and the RADA-cultivated cadences of that voice - "a pinch of pepper and a sprig of coriander - many of us probably presumed that she resided in England. The Home Counties, Waitrose and a Mini Metro would

suit her tidy image.
In fact, this bright-eyed, successful woman has for 30 years been a New Yorker. She lives on the rump of Greenwich village, south of the oddball Flatiron District, where taxis clunk over bumps in the road and toy wholesalers flash their novelty wares in sooty storefronts. A few streets to the west. Dylan Thomas killed himself by sucking dry a whisky bottle. Across the way from Mrs Jaffrey's apartment block is one of the area's last, Greek-run diners. Its laminated menu offers hash browns, steak, pancake heart

attacks and soda gum-rot. So what is she doing in BBCI's New Year drama The Peacock Spring, in which she plays wise Lady Srinevesan, patron of poets and mentor to the ripe Una Gwithian (Hattie Morahan)? How does this tally with her downtown Manhattan existence, or with her reputation as the Elizabeth David for all points East of Araby?

In the noisy Greek diner on New York's Sixth Avenue, Mrs Jaffrey appraised the dishevelled waiter's bulging apron before she ordered: Two poached eggs, a bagel, cawfee!" This from the woman whose dexterity with dopiaza transformed the kitchens of England. whose spice pummelling pestle and hot zeal lifted curry to art form, from Nuneaton to Norwich.

"You know what, I love hamburgers," she says. "They can be great. And I love this diner." Indeed, she and a love uns differ. Indeed, the campaigned for its salvation when the landlord recently attempted to evict the Greek family which has

run it for years. It was only a smallish part in The Peacock Spring, but Mrs Jaffrey jumped at the idea of two weeks on location in Delhi, her family town. A party scene was shot at the Gymkhana Club, long past its prime, but a place Mrs Jaffrey knew as a girl. "I was there once for a Christmas Eve ball, "she says. "I remember the dance so well. All the women wore gorgeous saris, and all the young Actress who gives spice to our lives



Madhur Jaffrey as Lady Srinevesan, mentor to Una Gwithian (Hattie Morahan) in The Peacock Spring

men I had crushes on were there. It was a wonderful night full of the

promise of love." Returning to the Gymkhana Club with the film crew, she walked in to the ballroom with Christopher Morahan, the director of The Peacock Spring. Before them, a magnificent shaft of light shone through a window. I was suddenly taken right back to that night when I was young, that evening that was so

special, she says.

That romantic story was interrupted by the arrival of the eggs - a tad runny - and served in a cup. They were consumed with care, and a sprinkling of black pepper administered with the little finger held aloft. She continued with talk of faroff India, its mists and wafting woodsmoke complemented by a singeing coming from the diner's

waffle griddle. . The family was brought up in a

huge Delhi compound, a series of villas built on land which the family received in exchange for murky political favours to the Raj in the mid-19th century. "I'm sorry to say that our family aided the British during the mutiny of 1857," she says. There were normally about 20 family members in the compound, but sometimes many more.

The young Madhur, educated at St Mary's Convent in Delhi and Queen Mary's Higher Secondary School in Kanpur, was expected to go in to the Civil Service. Instead, she managed to gain a place at drama school in London and found herself in the same class

as Diana Rigg. London in the late 1950s was a whirl. Bertolt Brecht's newly posthumous plays were the rage, and Peter Brook was in nightly triumph at the Phoenix. I remember sitting

in the gods watching Richard Burton play Othello one night, lago the next." says Mrs Jaffrey, chewing on a dry bagel.

she met Saeed Jaffrey, then a promising young actor, fell in love, and wed. They took the Queen Mary and set sail for a new life in the States. "I came out on deck to see the Statue of Liberty. Everything was new and exciting," Mrs Jaffrey says. The love affair with America lasted slightly longer than the one with Saced, alas, and she left their home in Washington DC to move, alone, to New York

To supplement the dismal money paid by off-Broadway shows she took a job as a guide at the United Nations, then at the new Lincoln Centre, where she met Sanford Allen, a young violinist. They have been happily married for more than

So much has happened since, but

with the Philarmonic, has been a constant factor. The interest in cooking began when she was living in Golders Green and, in despair at the endless string of cold meals, she wrote to her mother in Delhi to ask for decent recipes. When she reached America.

people were intrigued by her Indian dishes so she turned her mother's letters into a book. Further volumes

She has gone on to do television and radio work, has immersed herself in the family - of her three daughters, two are mothers - and has become accepted by the Merchant Ivory clique. There is unspecific talk of novel-writing and film direction this year.

All of the time, however, acting has nibbled away at her soul, and she has taken numerous roles over the years, from Cotton Mary to Heat and Dust, Vanya on 42nd Street, a stage Medea and now The Peacock Spring.

iven the success of her cookery books Mrs Jaffrey probably need not work. but sloth is not in her nature. "I was born into a comfortable caste kayastha, the caste of senior officials and mandarins but as a woman I had none of the fruits of that caste," she says. The men in India are not motivated. But I was not born a man." With curry houses finally making headway in New York, she probably also has a chance to expand her cooking interests. She is consultant to one of Manhattan's smarter Indian restaurants.

But what America really seems to suit is her wanderlust, her sparkle. "Ah, the land of Marlon Brando!" she exclaimed to herself when she first arrived. She delights in the new, the imaginative.

When Sir Edwin Lutyens was planning New Delhi he invited Mrs Jaffrey's grandfather, a friend, to take a parcel of prime land in the new project for a bargain price. "Grandfather told Lutyens. You mean that jungle? No way!." Mrs Jaffrey says. "That land," she says with a grin, "would now be worth many millions. Many, many!

If Lutyens had put the same proposition to his old friend's granddaughter, one imagines, the answer might have been more positive.

● Part two of The Peacock Spring is on BBC1 tonight at 9.30pm.

Why lawyers in traumatic trials should be offered counselling sessions to cope with the stress



صكذامن الأصل

The sands have not run out

Anthony Parsons on a peaceful

transition in Saudi Arabia

egimes in Arabia have two defining characteristics: their longevity. and their ability to baffle the West by finding ways round crises which from outside look insurmountable.

Assuming that King Fahd's delegation of authority to Prince Abdullah is permanent. the latter will be fifth in succession since the founder of the Kingdom. Abdel Aziz ibn Saud, died in November 1953. Previous successions have taken place in far more troubled circumstances, such as when King Faisal succeeded King Saud at the height of pan-Arab republicanism (Nasserism) in 1964, or when King Faisal was murdered by a member of the family in 1975. On both occasions, family solidarity weathered the storm. There is no reason why the same should not be the case today.

A smooth transition in Saudi Arabia is as important to the West as it ever was. The end of the Cold War has made little difference. The Arabian peninsula still contains a substantial proportion of the world's oil reserves. Anarchy or radical change in Saudi Arabia would have an immediate impact on the stability of the smaller states, from Kuwait to Oman. Stra-

tegically, Saudi Arabia lies between the area of the Arab-Israeli dispute, now at a delicate stage, and the potentially menacing states to the East, namely Saddam Hussein's Iraq and the Shia Muslim theocracy

of Iran. The key role of Saudi Arabia in operation Desert Storm five years ago is fresh in our minds, and the mullahs in Tehran have been, to say the least, on uneasy terms with the fundamentalist Sunni regime in Riyadh since the fall of the Shah in 1979.

Many commentators have recently predicted trouble for the monarchical regimes in the peninsula. But in my view, the ruling families in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states are under less external pressure than at any time since the 1950s. They survived with difficulty the tempest of the socialist, republican, anti-imperialist Arab nationalism which swept away the Egyptian and Iraqi monarchists in the 1950s and which destabilised the whole region until it died with the catastrophic defeat of Arab arms at the hands of the Israelis in June 1967.

Thereafter, Arab public opinion was inflamed by the Palestine problem under the leadership of the PLO, and regimes such as Saudi Arabia which maintained close relations with the West had to stav close to an Arab consensus. In fact, by the 1980s Saudi Arabia had taken the lead in formulating Arab policy on this question. Then, throughout most of the 1980s, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States were dangerously close to the longest and bloodiest interstate war since 1945, the Iran-Iraq conflict launched by Saddam's invasion of south-west Iran in 1980. There is little doubt that without the help of oil-rich Arab states, Iraq would have been beaten, rather than forcing a draw.

The threat of territorial aggression against Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, as opposed to subversion, came not from revolutionary Iran, but from sister Iraq. Few people doubt that after gobbling up Kuwait, Saddam would have gone on to dominate Saudi Arabia through a permanent threat of invasion, a threat which he would not have hesitated to implement had he been

allowed to get away with his

Kuwaiti adventure. Today all those threats have subsided. Iraq has been neutralised by Desert Storm and the continuing UN sanctions. The revolutionary fire is dying down in Iraq, although there are still ardent spirits who would be glad to stir up trouble among the Shia communities on the Arab shore of the Gulf. However, the mul-lahs have their hands full with economic recovery, and I do not believe that they have territorial ambitions in the Arab world.

Pan-Arabism is a dead duck; there is no longer such a thing as an Arab consensus on Palestine as the so-called peace process" edges forany case, Saudi Arabia is widely

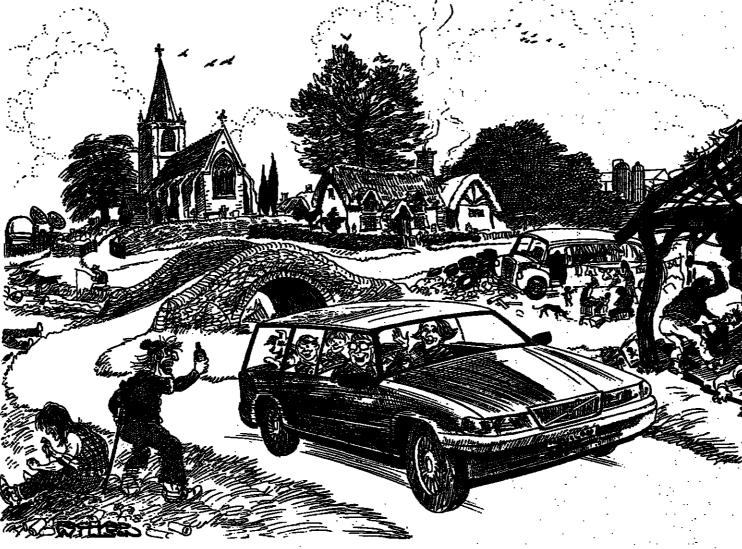
recognised as a The system the Arab League, of rule may and it is many years since any but mavbe antique erick regimes publicly criticised Saudi policy. Before 1990. but it is American support for Saudi integrity had to be kept over stable

the horizon" because of wider Arab sensitivity about Washington's relationship with Israel. Saddam's naked aggression against a sister Arab state changed that.

hat threat there may be to stability comes ▼ ▼ from within. Grow ing populations and the increasing complexity of government have eroded the direct access between rulers and ruled which used to be a partial substitute for democracy. Declining oil prices and the costs of the Gulf War have made it increasingly difficult to maintain expensive social and economic infrastructures such as free education, health services and subsidised housing, without resort to significant taxation. Education and travel are heightening political aspirations among the younger

generation. These factors could well combine to generate strong pressure for changes to a method of government which seems to have more to do with the 18th than the 20th century. If the peninsula were an oasis of autocracy in a sea of established democracies, such pressure could become irre-sistible: but it is not. Anyone seeking radical change in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf has only to look at the dire nature of neighbouring alternatives to wonder whether it would not be better to leave well alone — or at most to seek gradual rather than violent change.

Sir Anthony is a Middle East specialist and former Ambassador to Tehran.



Not so very pastoral

barely begun, and al-ready the bile is rising nicely. Never mind "Bishop slams Jackpot" and "Portillo slams Nicholson"; let us start 1996 by considering "Aga Saga Queen slams Cotswold village". Which tabloid headline chronicles a magnificently silly conflict between the novelist Joanna Trollope and the unremarkable settlement of Aston Magna,

Gloucestershire.

Ms Trollope - with, as we shall see, the most humane of intentions—described the village as "a truly dismal place", with problems in common with Manchester's Moss Side. Of course she meant to be provocative; if you want to wake up an audience of 30 in Stow-on-the-Wold, all experts agree, provocation is the quickest way to do it. Her remarks were made seven weeks ago in a speech on behalf of the Gloucestershire Community Foundation: they caused a small, local stir for all of five minutes. Rural umbrage travels slowly but surely: within a week or two the tabloid headline appeared, and now the incident has been given a fresh lease of life by the shootings in Moss Side at the weekend, forming as they do a nice contrast with the starry-eyed return of the intelligentsia from their idyllic Christmas in Much-Wittering-in-the-Saab.

So for yesterday's Daily Telegraph. an Aston Magna parish counsellor and a chap from the Gloucestershire Police were wheeled out to damn Joanna Trollope again. They even found a Methodist minister in Moss Side to get huffy at the comparison, saying "the communities are very different and it is difficult to find

any paralieis". Which is (sorry, Minister) bunkum. Of course there are parallels between urban poverty and the rural kind. A nice view does not neutralise debt and despair, nor prevent you being old and cold, young and hope-less, or afraid of your violent husband. Perhaps it just takes a middle-aged literary lady to admit it. A novelist, after all, is a professional people-watcher and not a politician; Joanna Trollope has nothing to gain or lose by telling the truth, and so feels no need to exercise craven diplomacy or even the sort of creaking political correctness so prevalent in The Archers. Therefore she is free to say, in terms as strong as it takes, that deprivation, sadness, loneliness and sin exist in the rolling countryside as well as the teeming city.

Many a rural scene masks suffering and poverty as grim as any city's

After all, it was another novelist, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who had Sherlock Holmes observe that "the lowest and vilest alleys of London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside". He was talking about domestic crime: the unseen cruelties in the remote house and the lack of neighbours to intervene (today, after the West affair, he would have to admit that a city street is no longer much protection). Joanna Trollope, on the platform of a charity foundation, was drawing attention to the rural incidence of poverty, un-

employment, poor housing, bad housing, bad health, lone parenttation to crime and drugs (Cirencester, for all its prettiness, has a teenage drug problem). She said, and should not repent saying, that it is cruel and silly for

outsiders and weekenders and insulated parvenus to think that "the country" is somehow magically protected from these things. She also said that it is the duty of the prosperous country-dweller to deploy "money, effort, and thoughtful care" on the neighbourhood.

Hers is an old-fashioned kind of

truthfulness: a level gaze which does not avert itself from the scruffy hopelessness of those council estates pushed to the edge of villages, from the decline of village shops and transport, the dearth of employment to replace traditional farming and "uneconomic" small-town manufacturing. It is not a patronising eye, but a clear one which acknowledges the despair of young people whose chance of a home is still, even in recession, being snatched away by weekend cottage prices. It is not unreasonable to see both insult and injury when London weekenders come down for new year with their cars stacked high from Waitrose on the King's Road. To acknowledge rural problems is not to belittle villagers, but to take their side.

Which, traditionally, the rural nobs have seen as their natural job. There have, admittedly, been high-handed landowners who oppressed

their tenants and resisted innovation and growth; but there is also a plentiful if unsung band who have run housing associations, given them land, encouraged jobs, defended traditional trades and lobbied for services. One of the problems of the inner cities, indeed, is the lack of such a loyal middle class: a Brixton boy who makes good (like John Major) does not feel it natural to stay in Brixton and fight for it: he goes off somewhere nicer. Say what you like about the old Lord and Lady Bounti-

fuls, they stuck around.

Indeed, one of the healthy things about village life --and the reason that even the poorest countryside is not actually as bad as Moss Side or St Paul's - is what has been called its "natural democracy". Bob Holman, the maverick social

scientist who put himself where his mouth was and moved to live in the run-down Glasgow satellite town of Easterhouses, recently wrote that whether in town or country, it is a Christian duty for the middle class not only to support the poor in principle, but to live near them. Things, he says, would be better if we did not hide in executive estates or affluent enclaves, but came geographically closer to the poor. Our sheer talent for fussing would then guarantee better schooling, policing, transport and medical services for all; community of interests would produce Mr Major's famous "nation

n some villages, this happens: people tolerate one another's weaknesses and exploit one another's strengths. The big house and the small ones can fight side by side for the school, the pub, the hall, the local bobby; meanwhile the rich man in his castle has to be civil to the poor man at his gate, because otherwise the next time his tiles blow off or his moles need catching he won't get help for weeks. The mother-and-toddler group provides a lifeline for the single girl living hugger-mugger with her par-ents and her illegitimate baby, but

also for the commuter's lonely wife with far more money but just as great a need for friends and baby

In such communities crime is often nipped in the bud by public pressure, in just the way Sherlock Holmes said it would in the "vile alleys" of Victorian London. Admittedly such pressure can lead to problems like the Harleston vigilantes, who were jailed for detaining a suspected motorbike thief; but on balance that is probably better than the terrified urban habit of turning a blind eye. One of the most alarming things about the growing suburbanisation of the countryside is that commuter villages are now spawning private "executive" estates which do not communicate with their council or traditional neighbours. In such a village, a few years ago, a young mother died unnoticed, and her child starved.

It may often be scruffy, and sometimes inbred, but the very stagnation of traditional rural life has its advantages. There is one small East Anglian town, an unemployment blackspot, which nonetheless has a lower incidence of cruelty to children than any parallel urban community. Why? Because there is always a forceful grandmother or aunt to interfere. East Anglia is rich in single mothers

thanks to the American Air Force and the story has it that a wellmeant but ill-informed charity set up "drop-in centre" for them. Nobody dropped in. The girls were all round at their mothers' or their nans', and took exception to being classified as a problem.

Such flashes of community spirit are to be cherished, whether in Essex or Orkney; cities could learn from them. Should have learnt from them years ago, instead of pulling down neighbourly streets to build tower blocks. Town planners could also reflect how much lower the rate of delinquency seems to be when children have access to wide green spaces in which they can play. Education planners could look at village schools and admit that, for young children at least, small is very beautiful.

But none of these glories of rural life need blind us to the truth of what Joanna Trollope said: that human beings in the countryside often suffer, albeit more quietly, as much as those in cities. A beautiful backdrop does not guarantee a good life, nor the safe and enlightened upbringing of child-ren. It is almost too obvious to say. Only the row proves that someone had to say it.

Their island pride

Magnus Linklater

watches a titanic

struggle in Orkney

he crowds who saw in the new year beneath the great sand-stone Cathedral of St Magnus in Orkney were in boisterous mood. Most clutched bottles of whisky which they were cheerfully ready to which they were cheering ready to share; despite a bitter north-west wind, they lingered on Broad Street long after the pipe band had given up, exchanging kisses and drams with equal enthusiasm; there were signs that a long night of hard drink-ing lay ahead. Meanwhile, Kirkwall, the island capital, looked like a town under siege: shop-fronts boarded up, doorways protected by wooden beams, alleyways blocked off. This was not, however, a protection against mass hooliganism, but a precaution in anticipation of what was to

happen later in the day.

No one is quite sure how the tradition of "the Ba" began, but it must be one of the most ancient as well as most ferocious new year sports in Britain, dating back possi-bly to the struggles for power be-tween the Earls and Bishops of Orkney in the 12th century. At the stroke of I o'clock yesterday, a round leather ball was tossed into the assembled crowds waiting at the Mercat Cross. and for hours afterwards a titanic struggle developed, with heaving scrums formed by 200 young men (this is not a game for women) surging through the narrow streets as they attempted to gain possession of the ball. For long minutes they piled up, immobile, against a wall, then suddenly they were off, hurtling in a breakneck scramble down the pavement. It looked frankly terrifying; the crush of bodies against stonework seemed to threaten inevitable death by suffocation. But I saw only one youth dragged from the crowd for first aid.

The town is divided into two - the "uppies", trying to smuggle the ball into their own territory half-way up the town, and the "doonies", aiming to land it in the harbour at the bottom end. It is rough stuff, with bruises and broken ribs routine. But though it is a violent spectacle, it has its subtleties. There are feints and false breakaways to fool the other side, and a series of complex instructions from seasoned players who seem to have some idea about what is happening deep inside the maul. The only sport bearing any similarity to it is the Eton Wali Game, where you may also never see the ball from start to finish. But that is insipid by comparison.

ne can well believe that the Ba goes back to the days when the Vikings introduced it as a game to be played with a human head as the ball. Its start at the foot of St Magnus Cathedral is entirely appropriate, for here is a direct link to the Viking era. Founded in memory of Earl Magnus of Orkney, who was murdered in 1117 by his cousin Hakon, the cathedral was built by Magnus's nephew, Earl Rognvald, one of the great medieval crusaders. It was Rognvald who took a fleet of 15 longships through the Mediterranean to Jerusalem in 1149, and who, on his return, hung his sails to dry on the pillars of the halfcompleted building. He was a fighter as well as a man of God, and he would have understood the Ba'.

At various times, the elders and sheriffs of Kirkwall have attempted to ban it, judging it too uncouth a sport for a civilised city. But the game survived because the tradition was too strong to be broken; and today it is more popular than ever, spawning other Ba's on Christmas Day. It is more than a quaint custom: it is a vigorous expression of Orkney's

strong, separate identity. That separateness has, if anything, been reinforced in recent years. Orkney has always been a self-reliant place, and the Thatcherite notions of private enterprise and resourcefulprivate enterprise and resourcefulness have suited it better than more dependent counties on the mainland. It is something of an irony that Margaret Thatcher, who was so committed to the United Kingdom, did more to emphasise a sense of individuality in its far-flung communities than any of her more devolution inclined predecessors. There has been a steady sense of alienation from central government in Orkney since then. It has not translated into votes for the Scottish nationalists, nor even for the idea of separate status for the islands, but it has certainly undermined the Conservative cause. It would be hard to envisage this constituency ever again supporting a Tory candidate; yet until 1950, when Jo Grimond won t for the Liberals, Orkney and

Shetland voted Unionist It is a lesson that Labour too would do well to bear in mind. Places like Orkney and the remoter rural communities of Britain are not instinctively in sympathy with new Labour. There is a sense that Tony Blair is every bit as much a prisoner of metropolitan bias as John Major, and if he is to demonstrate that he stands for all of Britain he needs to show that he is aware of its discrete

needs, interests, and traditions. I suggest he head North this time next January, ready to take part in the Ba'. He should bring a stout pair of boots, a half-pint of whisky in his back-pocket, and a strong constitution. As this column went to press last night, the game was still in progress. five hours after it began, and just 500 yards from its starting-point.

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Dramatic gift

given more than £300,000 towards new rehearsal rooms by its most famous alumnus, Sir Anthony Hopkins. With the aid of a sizeable grant from the National Lottery, his donation enables the Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff to undertake a £2 million development scheme in the 19thcentury building which once housed Lord Bute's grace and favour flats.

Sir Anthony was unavailable yesterday, but the college's principal, Edmond Fivet, is said to be "over the moon". Hopkins's former tutor, Tony Carter, 67 — who gave



Hopkins: generous

his music lessons in the 1950s says the donation sets the new year off on a cracking note.
"We've had students here who

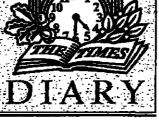
think they're going off into a different world when they cross the Severn Bridge, and they never return, "he said. "But Tony's Welsh roots are very strong. He often comes back and gives masterclasses.

Carter adds that he would never have suspected in the 1950s that the apple-cheeked young Hopkins would become a movie star who can command \$5 million per picture. "He wasn't bad on the piano though, I'll say that for him."

Exaggerated

IF GETTING down to Christmas thank-you letters is a bore, spare a thought for Hughie Green, folks. The former host of Opportunity Knocks plans to spend the new year replying to a pile of 700 letters from admirers distressed by exaggerated reports of his death.

The body-blow came in a throwaway line before Christmas in the BBC's comedy series The Vicar

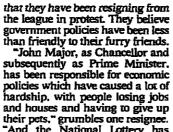


of Dibley, starring Dawn French There hasn't been a bus through the village since Hughie Green died," remarked a joker, prompting a deluge of concerned letters to the Canadian-born septuagenar-ian and his agent. Mr Green's clapometer has gone nuclear - he is furious that the Corporation has so far refused to correct the slip. They reckon they're God Almighty," he barked.

Humph

IN CATTY circles, the claws are out for John Major, who was awarded honorary membership of the Cats Protection League after Humphrey, the Downing Street cat, slunk back to No 10 in the

So appalled are some cat-lovers by Major's new feline fellowship



codename Teapot One. hardship, with people losing jobs and houses and having to give up their pets," grumbles one resignee.
"And the National Lottery has Still sparkling AMERICA has been starry-eyed about the late Jackie Kennedy's 40been bad for animal charities. It was a crass act to give Major this honour. Does he even know Humcarat sparkler, a paperweight of a ring given her by Aristotle Onassis after they married in 1968. Along with other effects, including Presiphrey? I shouldn't think so, he was just cashing in." dent Kennedy's desk, it is to be auc-tioned by Sotheby's in New York



• With peace being declared in the Balkans, Billy Graham's evangelical son Franklin has lost little time in getting out there to spread

\$2,000 to \$4,000 apiece,"



and market them as Jackie relics at the word. His moustachioed minder, who sports a stetson and Cuban heels, has been an incongruous sight in Zagreb.

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PRINCELY PROBLEMS

Prince Abdullah must reassert leadership at home and abroad

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil his priorities. The first is economic. For the exporter, one of Britain's biggest export markets and a country whose stability and well-being is a vital Western interest. Since the 1991 Gulf War, however, the kingdom has been going through a difficult period. It has run up a huge budget deficit, partly because of the war's costs but also through profligacy. Relations with Yemen and Gulf neighbours have deteriorated, while suspicion of Saddam Hussein's Iraq remains hìgh.

Saudi Arabia has seen demonstrations in its heartland by fundamentalists, led by dissident clergy, and has been subjected to telling denunciation by exiles and Iranian propaganda. A bomb blast last month that killed four Americans brought the spectre of terrorism suddenly close to home. And King Fahd, the shrewd but cautious ruler for the past 13 years, suffered a debilitating stroke last month that further spurred rumours of family infighting and dynastic uncertainty. The King's decision, therefore, to entrust

the rule of his country temporarily to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, is both sensible and welcome. Saudi Arabia needs, above all things, to regain selfconfidence after a bad attack of jitters. Despite lurid tales of corruption and predictions of the fall of the House of Saud, there is no evidence that the country is in a in pre-revolutionary ferment, that its strong religious and tribal traditions are being undermined or that the system, authoritarian and intolerant though it may be, cannot adapt itself gradually to the demands of a more sophisticated society. What is needed, however, is confident leadership, both to confront the social challenges at home and assert the leadership of the Arab world

thrusts upon Riyadh. Two challenges in particular face Saudi Arabia, which the Crown Prince must make

which the country's wealth, oil reserves and

influence as the historical heartland of Islam

past five years Saudi Arabia has lived far beyond its means, running up an enormous budget deficit through extravagant handouts to the 5,000 royal princes, generous subsidies on utilities and transport, and, it has to be admitted, unnecessarily large purchases of Western weapons. For two years the Government stalled, witholding payment to contractors and to private businesses. This was very damaging to its international business reputation and provoked deep discontent in the burgeoning Saudi merchant class, many of whom suffered big losses. Now the Government has grasped the nettle of economic discipline, and this year's budget, unveiled yesterday, holds down spending while maintaining the recent cuts in subsidies and confirming price rises. That economic discipline must be reinforced by more

privatisation of the bloated state sector. His second priority must be the social malaise that has been fanned by Islamic radicals. One of their targets has been corruption, especially within the Royal Family. Prince Abdullah, an austere and personally devout man, is less likely to incur their opprobrium. He must, however, ensure that the law is applied fairly and equally and that bribery is suppressed. He must move swiftly to bolster the influence of the progressive and quasi-democratic Consultative Council, while trying to cut back the influence of ultra-conservative and

obscurantist religious elders. The West should not be surprised if the Crown Prince - whose formal title as King may soon be confirmed - draws back from his brother's close dependence on the West. What matters is not that the Saudis copy Western ways and policies; the country's strategic importance depends more on stability, continuity and steady adaptation to its international role. For that, the House of Saud must change as swiftly as the country.

EMMA AMONG THE LIBERALS

Further defections are unlikely in the near future

For much of the past year, the Liberal Democrats have been reduced to observer status while the Conservative majority in the Commons disintegrated and Labour hogged the opposition limelight. Now and again, the Lib Dems would win a by-election or perform well in local elections - but their successes were always overshadowed by Tony Blair's.

This year, however, has begun with a dazzling firework display. Emma Nicholson's defection to Paddy Ashdown's party could not have been better news for him lends credibility to a party that had been all but eclipsed by New Labour. It gives force to the Liberal Democrats' claim to be a respectable repository for the votes of disaffected Tories. And her reasons for making the shift must have rung many a bell with disillusioned supporters of her former party, some of whom may now follow her lead.

Miss Nicholson will not mingle altogether comfortably with the open-toed sandal wing of the Liberal Democrats. But she has enough in common with the patrician tendency of Menzies Campbell, David Steel and Roy Jenkins. As well as her European federalist beliefs, her humanitarian internationalism - displayed to the full in her defence of the Iraqi Kurds - sits easily with Paddy Ashdown's party than with her former colleagues.

Her decision to join the Liberal Democrats rather than Labour is critical to the centre party's claim to chief opposition status in the West and South-West. Given our electoral system, the Lib Dems have to be a regional party or they are nothing - if

waving Union Jacks and chanting:

Who -- of course, our boy BRUNO.

So in this first week of pantomime

Rule Britannia for you know

There is nothing like a name

In this sporting panto game.

Frank's the hero of our rhyme.

Frank's the first true Brit to win

As well as playing Mother Goose,

Dick Whittington and Puss in Boots,

ball, and intones in a spooky purr.

And Sinbad the Sailor, dark and fruity.

They never speak their thoughts aloud,

Like Mitterrand and Archbishop Carey.

My prediction for 1996 is that Scorpios will

improve their communication skills, know

what I mean, Harry? And in addition

Efficient? Scorpio Bruno is not efficient

enough to punch his way into a packet of

Grape Nuts even without his gloves on. He

has a plastic chin and a left jab as soft as a

powder-puff. He still has not learnt to hang

on to his opponent and pinion his arms in

order to protect himself when he is in

trouble. As for calling himself heavyweight

Chorus gasps Ooooer. Demon Promoter.

Sometimes silent as a frozen spigot,

Viz. horsey-blinkered Lester Piggott.

become more efficient at their work

Mystic Puss in Boots stares into her crystal

A heavyweight title in the ring,

Cinderella, the Sleeping Beauty,

Scorpios are brave and proud.

Devious and somewhat wary

their votes are too evenly spread around the country, they are doomed to come second and third in every constituency but rarely to win a seat.

The territory to which they have now laid a claim runs west of a line from Hastings to Swindon, excluding the big cities. But there was a danger that Labour's ascendancy would put even this area in jeopardy. In most of the Lib Dems' target seats, Labour comes a poor third. Yet if enough former Tory voters switched to Labour at the next election, the sitting Tory candidates could hold on to their seats simply by splitting the opposition. Miss Nicholson's choice of the Liberal Democrats will remind those voters who want to oust the Conservatives in this part of England that they will have to vote tactically for the centre party.

She may also have helped to assuage some doubts in voters' minds about voting Liberal Democrat. The centre party has been putting out conflicting messages lately. Sensing an electoral opportunity with Mr Blair's lurch to the Right, Mr Ashdown has sometimes looked as if he was trying to outflank Labour on the Left. This might have had the merit of picking up votes from radical socialists - but it was not what wavering Conservatives wanted to hear. Miss Nichol-

son's conversion could reassure them. So is she likely now to be joined by other former colleagues? Parliamentary arithmetic makes more defections unlikely in the near future. As the Government's majority nears vanishing point, the next two MPs who crossed the floor would be personally blamed for precipitating a general election.

PANTO BRUNO

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A chorus of boxing fans surrounds the ring, champion of the world, there are a dozen fighters calling themselves that in the murky alphabet soup of showbiz, avarice and fraud that prize-fighting has become. No fewer than 22 flabby fantasists have been "heavyweight champions of the world" since the last undisputed champion, Mike Tyson, was relieved of his belt by Buster Douglas in Tokyo four years ago. Tyson will murder Bruno, as he did last time, if they eventually get into the ring together this year. You should advise your boy to stick to playing Mother Goose or to celebrity advertising, exhorting us to slosh HP sauce on our chips. Bruno should give up the men in fights And stick with the nicer men in tights. Chorus boo, "Oh no he shouldn't", "Oh yes, he should." Mystic Puss in Boots: Take a dive. Take a count, Demon Promoter. For happy endings are the motor Of rap, pantomime and astrology. So I predict, without apology, A prosperous year for your boy Frank. With big enough deposits to sink his bank. For the British love a loser chump Such as Eddie the Eagle or Forrest Gump. And if Frank meets Tyson in the ring Our Scorpio giant has learnt to sting. Final chorus of riotous boxing fans: For Demon Promoter don't give two hoots. We believe in mystic moggy in Boots. We love Frank, and Frank loves us. This year at last he'll catch the bus. Though the black arts of fisticuffology Are as hard to read as Scorpios of astrology.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London Et 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Folly of quotas in a 'common pond'

From Mr David B. Thomson

Sir. The letters from Sir Anthony Meyer and from Professor John Shepherd in support of EU fisheries policy (December 26) ignore the EU's role in bringing about the current stock depletion and excess ilect capacity. Both writers continue to put faith in a discredited quota system which could never conserve stocks as presently constructed and administered.

Your editorial on the same day, "Fish and folly", is much nearer the mark in highlighting the insanity of the "discards" — fish thrown back as over quota — directly resulting from the EU quota system. You also rightly auribute blame to the EU subsidy of excess fleets: there would be no excessvessel problem if only British vessels fished in British fishing grounds.

The creation by the former EEC of a common pond for all European vessels (no other group of sea-fishing countries has agreed to such foolishness) has allowed Denmark, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Spain to send their fishing fleets into British and Irish waters: that is why we have excess fishing capacity. Already British fishermen lose up to half their fishing boats to make room for European vessels.

The EU quota system is even more iniquitous in its effect on our fisheries. The amount of fish dumped at sea as a direct result of the system (or landed illegally) is believed to be equal to or greater than the official catch. This makes a mockery of the claims that smaller quotas would conserve fish.

The fisheries policy of the EU will result in the destruction of small traditional fishing communities as they lose their fishing livelihood for ever. This contrasts with what is happening in most of the rest of the world - eg, in Japan, New Zealand and the US, where traditional fishers have their share of and access to marine resources enshrined in law.

The EU is having to renegotiate its fishery agreement with Senegal because it is resulting in the destruction of inshore fisheries. Irish, Scottish and Cornish fishermen must wish their political representatives would do the

Yours sincerely DAVID B. THOMSON. Cloverdale, Kimberley Street, Lossiemouth, Morayshire, Scotland.

From Mrs Christina Speight Sir. The Spanish fishing fleet has

almost eliminated fish stocks in its own waters. Now it is not only being allocated a quota in British waters but is also, with the Dutch. allowed to use Briasa qu

British fishermen with a quota of fish caught rather than fish landed could, and would in their own interests, ensure the management of remaining stocks. Landings in Britain are closely supervised by inspectors. but press reports suggest that Spanish inspectors have little control over fish landings in Spain.

In addition, the Danes are taking large quantities of immature North Sea fish to feed to pigs. Meanwhile all countries continue to overfish their quotas under the CFP and to dump much of the surplus, dead, back into the seal

So far from allowing fishing policy to be determined by majority voting in the Council of Ministers, largely by countries not involved in the problem. the answer lies in repatriating control to the countries bordering the fishing areas. Certainly this involves Britain's withdrawal from the CFP, and this in its turn requires Britain to withdraw from the EU.

This is precisely the policy which the UK Independence Party has been proposing since it was founded. In justice to our British fishermen, and to ensure future fish stocks, it is the only

Yours faithfully, CHRISTINA ŠPEIGHT. 20 Ramillies Road, W4. December 26.

From Mr Mark Hamer

Sir, Sir Anthony Meyer pleads the cause of the European Commission to champion the general and the longterm interest", pointing to the "folly of attempting to run the EU on the sole basis of inter-governmental co-opera-

tion". I wholly disagree. Left to its own devices, the Fisheries Commission has proved that it will act in favour of some member countries to the detriment of others. Last month it agreed to pay Morocco no less than £350 million for a four-year agreement to permit Community vessels ie, mainly Spanish - to fish in their waters. Whilst the agreement was being negotiated Spanish vessel-owners were given about £20 million "to tide them over". Such largesse for the alienated British fishing industry (in which I worked for over 30 years) is unheard of

The vast majority of people in our fishing communities support the Save Britain's Fish campaign, whose objective is to take our country out of the common fisheries policy and bring our 200-mile limit under British control. It can and must be done. Failure to do so will result in the total collapse of our precious British fish stocks for all time.

Yours faithfully MARK HAMER 6 Hazelwood Close, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire.

Institute and the spirit of Auckland

From Mr Peter R. C. Williams

Sir. An uninformed reader of Baroness Chaiker's letter of December 22, in response to Mr Derek Ingram and his co-signatories (December 19), might be forgiven for thinking that the Government's role vis à vis the Commonwealth Institute is that of St George riding to the rescue of an innocent victim threatened by hostile forces. In reality, of course, the victim's plight is the direct result of the Government's sharp reduction in its grant.

As a consequence, the number of Commonwealth Institute staff has fallen from 120 in 1987 to 90 in 1991. when the current director-general assumed office, and to 36 today. If the Government's current intentions regarding funding support are put into effect that number could be only 20 by the early summer of 1996. In March the Commonwealth Institute in Scotland is to close. 18 months or so before HMG hosts the next Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, probably in Edinburgh.

Lady Chalker was a member of the

Sir. I have carried out a survey of the

official engagements carried out by the Royal Family during 1995, as re-

Princess Alexandra | 100 34 17 151 18

A Official visits, opening ceremonies and

B Receptions, lunches, dinners and ban-

C Other engagements, including investi-tures, meetings attended and audiences

Total number of engagements in UK

E Total number of engagements on official overseas tours

Sir, I am amazed at the naiveté ex-

pressed by Dr Kreeger in his com-

plaint at being charged by a GP col-

The NHS pays us to provide certain

core services, and for these we are not

allowed to make any additional

charge. However, an increasing part

of our daily routine is now taken up by

time-consuming paperwork and cor-respondence which is outside these

I estimate that I spend one to two

hours every day dealing with requests

for information from mortgage com-

nanies, holiday insurance schemes,

Bupa, solicitors, employers etc. This

entails my collating the information

from patient records and dictating

letters, and then taking up secretarial

time with typing the reports and

photocopying relevant hospital letters.

bank manager do the same type of

work and not charge for it? The Gov-

ernment is forever exhorting GPs to

Stress in anaesthetists

From the President of the Association

of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and

Sir, Dr Simon Wessely ("What if your

surgeon's a junkie?", December 19)

states that "Of all the medical special-

ists, anaesthetists have the highest suicide rate". While the rate is unhap-

pily high, we know of no evidence to

doctors is a cause for major concern.

and support for stressed dectors is of

paramount importance. Since 1981

this association's pioneering sick-

doctor scheme has proved very bene-

ficial and has been imitated by many

party, with Royal College of Psychia-

trists representation, to consider the

whole problem of stress among anaes-

therists and at the same time to au-

thenticate the data on suicide.

Association of Anaesthetists

of Great Britain and Ireland,

9 Bedford Square, WCI.

From Mrs Sheila Stevens

S. MORELL LYONS, President.

Too close to the fire

Sir, I read with interest in Dr Stutta-

ford's medical briefing today that the

correct medical term for the mortling

of legs caused by sitting too close to

the fire is livedo reticularis. I think I

still prefer the more picturesque term

used for this condition in the Glasgow

8 Redhouse Drive, Sonning Common.

of my childhood - fire tartan.

Yours faithfully,

December 28.

SHEILA STEVENS,

Reading, Berkshire.

We have recently set up a working

The high suicide rate among all

support that assertion.

other schemes.

Yours faithfully,

Would an accountant, solicitor or

league for photocopies of a patient's

A B C D E 167 St 295 545 106

228 141 32 401 222

260 108 103 471 134

32 10 30 62 65 44 29 8 81 21

51 40 25 116 103

250 93 84 427 148 87 38 8 133 S 82 35 22 139 46

107 31 3 141 20

134 49 29 212 76

121 25 11 157 10

28 5 9 42

From Mr Tim O'Donovan

ported in the Court Circular.

The Ousen

Duke of Edinburgh

Queen Mother

Duke of York

Prince Edward

Princess Royal

Duchess of

Duke of Kent

Duchess of Kent

other engagements

NHS charges

From Dr Alan Blackburn

notes fletter, December 28).

core services.

Princess Margaret

Duke of Gloucester

Gloucester

Prince of Wales

Princess of Wales

wealth summit. held in Auckland last month. There the Prime Minister. along with his Commonwealth colleagues, supported the proposal "that Heads of Government endorse wider knowledge of the Commonwealth as a key strategy for furthering the Commonwealth's objectives". This was oddly at variance with HMG's reported veto of a paragraph in the draft communique commending the work of the institute.

Lady Chalker's latest affirmation of government willingness to help the institute is welcome: continuing government support, both political and material, is crucial to its future. But the level of this support has to be more fully commensurate with that clearly required by the spirit of the Auckland communique. Yours etc.

PETER R. C. WILLIAMS (Deputy Executive Chairman). Council for Education in the Commonwealth. The College of Precepturs.

As I have pointed out before, it is very misleading to attempt to convert

these statistics into some sort of league

table of royal endeavour. Each royal

engagement is unique and differs both

as to length and content, as well as to

the time taken in preparation and

briefing. For example, an investiture takes the best part of a morning, in

addition to the considerable time spent

by the Queen in familiarising herself

with the details of the recipients and

their awards. All this counts as one en-

A lot of work is done which never

appears in the Court Circular, especi-

ally the Queen's daily constitutional

duties, meetings and preparation of

speeches. All statistics are open to in-

terpretation, and none more so than

these ones. However, if treated care-

fully, daily summaries in the Court

Circular give a fair indication of how hard the Royal Family work.

become more businesslike, and we all

gagement.

Yours faithfully.

December 31.

Yours faithfully.

A. R. BLACKBURN.

The Oaks Surgery.

Applegarth Avenue. Guildford, Surrey.

time involved.

Yours faithfully.

December 28.

TIM O'DONOVAN,

Datchet, Berkshire.

Mariners, The Avenue,

have our mortgages to pay.

Guildowns Group Practice,

From Dr Anthony J. S. Nicholls

Sir. I do not think there is sufficient

information in Dr Kreeger's letter to

justify his complaint at being charged

for photocopies of a patient's records.

the general practitioner with an in-

adequate history then Dr Kreeger is

entitled to have more information

without charge. If the patient came to

Dr Kreeger without the GP's know-

ledge or referral then the GP practice

is entitled to charge a reasonable fee

for the secretarial and administrative

ANTHONY J. S. NICHOLLS,

8 Eastcote Road, Pinner, Middlesex.

East Sussex housing

From the Chairman of the East

Sussex Association of Local Councils

Sir. Jill Parkin. in reporting the debate

over additional housing in East

Sussex ("Concrete mixers head for

Kipling country". Weekend. Decem-

ber 23) is mistaken in believing that

there is little opposition to the pro-

posed allocation of the 2,333 new

homes to be provided annually in the

Local communities under the South

Downs have rejected the Lewes Dis-

trict Council draft local plan for that

period since it includes proposals to

release substantial new greenfield

sites for housing in their villages.

Their objections are similar to those to

the new towns proposed for the same

represented by this association, along

with other bodies in Sussex, have

great reservations concerning the

processes whereby the figures for

these housing allocations are obtained

by the Department of the Environ-

In particular we question the valid-

ity of using as starting points projec-

tions of population and housing

change which are based on current

demographic and social trends and

converting these into housing pro-

vision figures without complementary

We require clear reasoning and

reliable statistics from those who

advocate such development, neither of

which we have found available during

statistical details or evaluation.

the current debate.

A. J. MacGILLIVRAY,

Chairman, East Sussex

Association of Local Councils,

212 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex.

Yours faithfully,

Sussex House.

December 29.

The parish and town councils

area after 2006.

ment.

county between now and 2006.

The Pinn Medical Centre,

If the patient had been referred by

Coppice Row, Theydon Bois, Essex. British delegation to the last Common-December 38.

Royals at work, at home and abroad

Films that deliver a slap in the face

From Ms Veronica Kish

Sir, The latest James Bond film. Goldeneye (review. Arts. November 23). dismayed me, in that a villain yet again has a badly scarred face.

The stereotype that good people are beautiful and bad people ugly is implicated in the teasing and bullying that many children and teenagers suffer because of their appearance. As a health professional working with children disfigured by burns, dog bites. birthmarks and other conditions, I am distressed at the prejudice, in the

street and playground.
Fairy tales are a strong source of this stereotype, with ugly witches, Wicked dwarfs, monsters and freaks, Film has supported them: the villain in Waterworld lost an eye in battle. Batman Forever introduced Two Face, with half his face deformed, and The Lion King named its villain Scah.

Given the incidence of disfigurement, such representations are disturbing. Some 400,000 people in Britain are disfigured, and one schoolaged child in 500 has a significant fac-

A villain doesn't always have to look horrid. The beautiful wicked witch of C. S. Lewis's The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe shows this. Our beliefs about appearance are flawed enough. without further impetus to prejudice.

Yours sincerely, VERONICA KISH,

Changing Faces, 1 & 2 Junction Mews. Paddington. W2.

Who was it from?

From Emeritus Professor W. G. V. Balchin

Sir, The Post Office has done a magnificent job this year in delivering 1.9 billion items of Christmas mail !News in brief, December 23), but it could be even more helpful if it indicated in all cases where and when the items have been posted.

The present franking system is in serious need of an overhaul - an analysis of the 95 items of Christmas mail which we received has revealed that the location of posting was absent or undecipherable in 42 per cent, the date of posting was absent or unde-cipherable in 40 per cent, and both location and date were absent or undecipherable in 30 per cent.

This lack of information can be quite critical at Christmas when so many friends and relations sign cards with a simple Christmas name, not realising that you might know two Muriels, three Georges and four Lucys. Without locational franking one often needs a graphologist to pinpoint the sender.

Yours faithfully, W. G. V. BALCHIN. 10 Low Wood Rise, Ben Rhydding. llkley, West Yorkshire.

Driven to distraction

From Mr R. Compton

Sir. Having paid my car insurance premium, I awaited a slim envelope containing the renewal certificate.

The envelope from my insurers was very large. In addition to the certificate it contained: a "thank you" letter;

another copy of the policy document (1 already have one), a 58-page "welcome booklet":

a schedule headed "Excesses for young drivers" (despite my wife and I being the only named drivers, and no longer eligible);

a further envelope containing "a specially selected range of additional benefits & services";

a "customer care" form asking for my comments:

an "invitation" to apply for home insurance: and a shiny laminated card telling me

what to do if I crash. I do wonder how much lower my premium could have been if I had just received the renewal certificate.

Yours faithfully ROGER COMPTON,

Woodbridge, Charlwood Road, Hookwood, Horley, Surrey.

Not to be copied From Mr Roy Dean

Sir, It is noticeable in television crime

series that the police so seldom bother to lock their cars when they get out. Even Inspector Morse sets an occasionally bad example.

Yours faithfully. ROY DEAN. 14 Blyth Road, Bromley, Kent.

As God intended?

From Mr Chandra P, de Fonseka Sir. Even if St Matthew appeared nude before God (report and photograph, December 28) what reason could there be for him being depicted

Yours faithfully. C. P. de FONSEKA. 10 Glendevon Road, Whitchurch, Bristol, Avon.

in that state before Man?

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

[مكنامن الأعل





COURT CIRCULAR

The Duke of Edinburgh has been pleased to appoint Sir Brian McGrath an Extra Equerry to His Royal Highness on his retirement as Treasurer and Head of Household.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at Ham. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace

Birthdays today

Mr David Bailey, photographer. 58: Mr N.H. Baring, chairman. Commercial Union Assurance, 62: Sir Richard Bayliss, former Physician to the Queen. 79: Mr Leopold Brook, former chairman, Simon Engineering, 84: Mr Christopher Campbell, vicechairman. British Rail, 60: the Duke of Devonshire, 76: Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, geologist. 86: Mr Walter Harrison, former MP, 75; Miss Hilary Heilbron, QC. 47: Sir Michael Hirst, former MP, 50: Mr Doug McAvoy, trade unionist, 57; Mr Piers Merchant, MP, 45: Sir Bruce Pattullo, governor and group chief executive. Bank of Scotland, 58: Sir Charles Reece, former group research and technology director. ICI, 69; Mr Edmund de Rothschild. former chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 80; the Earl of St Germans, 55: Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sidey, 83: Sir Keith Thomas. President. British Academy, 63: Sir Michael Tippett. OM. CH. composer, 91: Dame Rachel Waterhouse. former chairman. Consumers Association, 73: Sir Andrew Wood, diplomat, 56: the Right Rev Kenneth Woollcombe, for mer Bishop of Oxford. 72.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Wolfe, general and conqueror of Quebec. Westerham. Kent, 1727: Gilbert Murray, scholar, Sydney, New South Wales, 1866; Count Folke Bernadotte, UN mediator. Stockholm, 1895; Isaac Asimov, Russian-born American science fiction writer. Petrovichi in the Smolensk district of Russia, 1920.

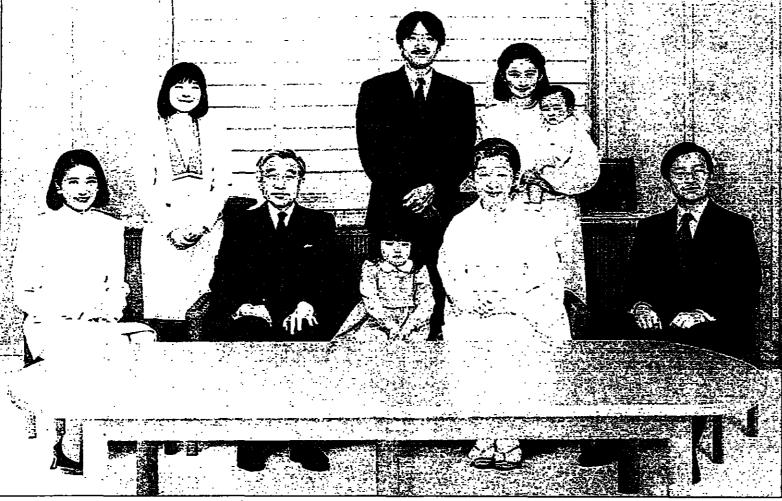
DEATHS: Ovid. poet. Tomi. on the Black Sea. 17AD: Friedrich Wilhelm IV. King of Prussia, 1861: Sir Edward Tyler, anthropologist, Weilington. Somerset. 1917: Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer. London, 1946; Edna May, actress, 1948; Princess Alice Countess of Athlone,

The Academie Française was founded by Cardinal Richelieu, 1635.

Sir Joshua Reynolds became the first president of the Royal Academy, which opened this day, 1769.

The Soviets launched Lung 1. the first unmanned space rocket to pass close to the Moon, 1959.

Sixty six people were killed when a barrier collapsed at Ibrox Park football ground, Glasgow, 1971.



Emperor Akihito of Japan. seated second from left, and Empress Michiko, fourth from left, pose with other members of the imperial family for a formal photograph. In poems to mark the turn of the year the Emperor and Empress hope that the coming year will be peaceful

Latest wills

Other estates include (net. before

Mr Evan Thomas Evans, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire...... 5586,827.

Mr Rowland Gibbs, of Shelfield

Pittington, Durham £1,005,203.

Mrs Cicely Muriel Manning of

Streatley, Bedfordshire, \$1,008,134.

Mrs Geraldine De Courcy Trevel-

Mr Jack Neville Sheppard, of Penton Grafton, Hampshire

Mr Eric Stater, of Bournemouth,

Mr Roger Debunnaire Tennant, of

Upton on Severn, Worcester-

Mr Arthur Apfel. of London

Mr George Thomas Henry Bed-

ford, of Tenbury, Worcestershire. late company director £1,134.755.

Mr Peter Gray Benham, of

Hookwood, Surrey £780,363.

Mr Arthur Geoffrey Close-

Brooks, of London SW10 E1,542,260.

Mr John Robert Fisher, of

Denstone, Staffordshire . 5936.627.

Mrs Anna Hickson, of Dover.

Mr Gordon Keith James. of South

Croydon, Surrey E573.812. Elizabeth Warwick Morrison, of

Southport, Merseyside ... £770.427.

Mrs Helena Hertha Ury, of

London NWS......£1,093.589.

Kathleen Lindsay Wigglesworth. of Chorleywood. Hertfordshire

Mrs Henrietta Louisa Selina Wil-

Mr Roy Kuhnel, of Sandal, West

Mr John Robert Leach, of Brighton, East Sussex £649,332

Mrs Ada Lilian Mitchell, of Has-

socks, West Sussex........... \$580.514

liams, of Hove. East Sussex

£1.979.668.

£1.415.596.

Yorkshire....

...... £591,**28**5.

.....596.841

.... £725.8ú\$.

. £914,219.

£1.004.430.

Dorset ..

Mr William Greenhow

Sir Stephen Harold Spender, of London NW8, the poet, and Professor of English at University College. London, 1970-77. left estate alued at £298.188 net.

Mr Frederick William Stern, of London NWS, left estate valued at Mrs Marjorie Tulip Parsons, of

Lewes, East Sussex, Trekkie Parsons, the artist, widow of Ian M. Parsons, the publisher, and friend of Leonard Woolf, from whom she inherited his papers (given to the University of Sussex) and Monks House (transferred to the National Frust, left estate valued at £557,388

net.

She left her entitiement to royalties and copyright in unpublished papers from the works of Leonard Woolf, any royalties relating to the works of her late husband to the London Library, and £5,000 each to the Artists' Benevolent Society, the National Library for the Blind, Age Concern and the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society.

Lady Cantley, of Temple, London EC4, left estate valued at \$1,057,411 Mr Eric Cronshaw, of Wilpshire,

Lancashire, retired motor garage proprietor, left estate valued at

refers to personal legatees, and the residue equally between St Silas Church, Blackburn, St Leonard's Church, Blackburn, Blackburn and District Children's Homes, Blackburn and District Children's Homes, Blackburn and Darwen Society for the Blind, Derlan House, Fulwood, the Mary Cross Trust, Preston, Action for Blind People, Royal London Society for the Blind, Sight Savers, NSPCC, RSPCA, Barnardos, Marie Curle Cancer Care, Age, Concern England, Save the Children Fund, Spasites Society, Shelter, Salvation Army, Mulitple Sciensis Society, Motor Cycle Traders' Benevolent Fund, RNLL, British Heart Foundation, Arthritis and Rheumanm Council, British Diabelic Association and LEPRA.

Mr Vivian Wellesley Fletcher, of

Mr Vivian Wellesley Fletcher, of Surbition, Surrey, left estate valued

Margaret Philothea Thompson, of

valued at £445,936 net. valued at £445.936 net.

She forgave any outstanding debts at her death and left £185,000 and effects not otherwise bequeathed to personal legates. her watercolour painting with associated papers by Samuel Palmer, her Lriptych watercolour painting Ulysses and Calypso by Constance Phillott, the painting The Three Kings and a 1907 pencil drawing both by William de Morgan, to the Ashmoléan Museum.

Oxford, certain letters, etc to the

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.C. Beaton-Brown

and Miss C.L. Villar The engagement is announced between Peter Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Brown, of Ivy House, Hadley Wood, Hertford-shire, and Caroline Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Villar, of Tostock Old Rectory, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,

and Ms S.J. Neville and Ms S.J. Nevale
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Dean, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Neville, of Home Farm, Ebbasean Nearth Verlability

Ebberston. North Yorkshire. Mr P.A. Ellwood and Miss S.K. Atkinson The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Ellwood, of Lytham St

Annes, and Sue, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leslie Atkinson, of Manuden, Bishop's Stortford. Mr C.T. Percy and Miss S.T.J. du Cann The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr and Mrs

W.S. Perry, of Bledhampton Hampshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of the Right Hon Sir Edward du Cann, of Alderney, and of Lady du Carm, of Cold Aston. Gloucestershire.

Mr R.T. Shaxson and Miss H.C. Whitaker The betrothal is announced of Rhydian, son of Mr and Mrs Bruce Shaxson, of Grayshott. Surrey, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Whitaker, of Totterton. Lydbury North.

Mr D.C.W. Torrens and Miss L.Y. Thompson The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs John Torrens, of Northwood. Middlesex, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Thompson, of Hungerford, Berkshire.

Appointment

Mr Doug McAdam to be nonresident Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan in succession to the late Mr Noel Jones. He will take up his appointment in March and be based in Almary.

University news

Queen's University of Belfast Research projects at the university have won funding worth more than

63.4 million.

The awards have come from a wide range of sources, including the Department of Economic Develop-ment's industrial research and tech-nology unit, charities, industry, research councils, the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights,

sory Commission on Fluman togras, and the Northern Ireland Office. The funding is for studies in the university's faculties of agriculture and food science, arts, economics and social sciences, engineering, medicine and science. The Northern Ireland Technology Centre at Queen's, the

Technology Centre at Queen's, the university's environmental research initiative — the Questor Centre — and its Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice have also benefited.

The largest single grant — E872,823 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council — has been awarded to Dr John Geddes in the School of Mathematics and the School of Mathematics and Physics for research on atomic col-

Other grants include an award of E59,000 from the Northern Ireland Office to Professor Mike Brogden of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, for a Northern The Northern Ireland Office has also awarded a grant of £19.950 to Professor Noel Sheeby of Psychology for a study on suicide and self-harm

Appointments The following appointments have been announced:

Ingrid Allen, Professor of Neuropathology, has been appointed Chairman of the Higher Education Funding Councils Joint Medical Advisory Committee, from January I. Jack Crane, Honorary Professor of Forensic Medicine, and Dr James Riddell, Reader in Therapeutics and Pharmacology, have been appointed to membership of the Northern Ireland Poisons Board.

Ms Michelle McAuley has been elected by the Students Union Council to membership of Senate. Recent grants include: School of Agriculture and

Food Science Dr L M Lawrence, Dr H Ball, E134,575, IRTU, Campylobacter contamination in Poultry. Veterinary Science Dr A Douglas, £175,692 over three years. Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Study of inhibitors of bovine viral diarrhoea virus protease P80.

School of Biology and Blochemistry Dr W I Montgomery, £33,840 over three years, Northern Ireland Electricity, Studentship. Dr B Walker, £51,702. British Heart

Foundation. Design and evaluation of novel substrates and inhibitors for use in studies of the bradykinin-

School of Chemistry Professor M A McKervey. E187,500 over three years, IRTU Technology Development Programme, Custom synthesis, process development and synthesis, p pilot facility

Professor K R Seddon, £219,649 over three years, Engineering and Phys-ical Sciences Research Council. Ionic líquids: clean solvents for chemical

School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Electrical and Electronic Engineering Professor G W Irwin, £436,710 over one year, IRTU Technology Dev-elopment Programme, Virtual plant for industrial and process

School of Mathematics and Physics Dr I G Hughes, £133,010 over three years. Engineering and Physical Sci-ences Research Council, Description

iply charged ions.
Dr J Geddes, 1872,823 over four years. Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Atomic colision processes of fundamental. astrophysical and technological im-

ichool of Pharmacy Professor J C McElnay, E71,232 over one year and six months, Medical Research Council/Department of Health and Social Services, Evaluation of the efficacy of a community pharmacy based smok-ing cessation service.

School of Psychology Professor N P Sheehy, £19,950 over six months, Northern Ireland Office, Suicide and self harm in prisons. Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Professor M E Brogden. £59,000 over one year, four months, Northern Ireland Office. Northern Ireland Community Crime Survey. School of Pharmacy and Department of Microbiology

Dr S P Gorman, £45,721, Dr S Patrick, E46.128. Arthritis and Rheu-matism Council. Anaerobic bacteria in bone and joint infection: improved Archaeology

Tomb sheds new light. on Chinese culture

By Norman Hammond, archaeology correspondent

EARLY Chinese civilisation was much more widespread than scholars have hitherto thought: a tomb filled with elaborate bronzes in southern China suggests that the Shang culture was not confined to the Yellow River basin, where most known sites are concen-

"There has been a tendency to place all Shang developments in the Yellow River Valley." Professor Robert Bagley, of Princeton University, said. This is partly the effect of Chinese archaeology being run from Beijing in northern China: developments in the Yangtse basin have been underestimated".

The tomb at Dayangzhou. in the Xingan county of Jiangxi province, dates to the 13th century BC, and is the second most elaborate known. outclassed only by the burial of Fu Hao, a royal consort interred at the Shang capital of Anyang, 600 miles to the

The Xin gan tomb contained 356 pottery vessels, glazed and fired at a high temperature, 50 bronze vessels and four bronze bells, more than 400 bronze weapons and tools and 150 carved jades.

The pottery matched that from a settlement a few miles away, thought to have been the seat of the putative ruler whose death was so elaborately commemorated. Many of the bronzes show a similar regional character, Professor Bagley argues, both in the forms chosen and in their complex cast decoration.

The largest bronzes are more than 3ft high, and include a square fang ding on four legs, a ritual food vessel decorated with bands of the masklike taotie device. Of the 50 vessels 37 are food vessels, one with a double bottom into which charcoal could be inserted to heat the food.

solid cast figure of a tiger on the handles, and the legs. handles, and other appendages are in general both massive and elaborate. The bronze bells, three of which stood upright on their "handles" and were struck with a mailet, are the first to be found in a datable context, and a bronze halberd blade is of a kind hitherto unknown before the Zhou dynasty three centuries later than the Xin'gan

The most elaborate bronzes are a tiger nearly 2ft long, with a bird on its back, and a grotesque fanged and doublefaced mask with pointed ears and two antenna-like projec-tions rising from its head. Nothing like these is known from the Yellow River focus of Shang civilisation, Professor

Bagley said.
The jades include a red figure of a bird-man with a crest, trailing a chain of three jade links carved from the same piece of stone. Other jades bear relief decoration emphasising the south Chinese nature of the culture of

Xin'gan. The discovery "amounts to a major reorientation of Shang archaeology". Professor Bagley said recently in the journal Orientations. Rather than diffusion of ideas out from a centre in the Yellow River valley, there seems to have been interaction between more widely separated regions sharing in a common culture, but not ruled by the

Shang Dynasty. The latter's adoption of writing, and its preservation on oracle bones, has for some 70 years led to their capitals at Zhengzhou and then Anyang being regarded as the fountain heads of Chinese culture. "Anyang may have a monopoly of the written evidence, but not of civilisation in China at this

Etonians' lake covers remains of farms

ETONIANS will soon be row- "causewayed camp", similar ing across a landscape far to one at Staines just downmore ancient than their own stream, and thought to be college, which is a mere 556 years old (Norman Ham-

mond writes). Archaeological survey

ahead of construction of the new Eton rowing lake has revealed settlements dating back more than 7,000 years. The lake, which is being excavated upstream from

Eton on the Thames watermeadows at Boveney, and which will serve the local community as well as the college crews, will house an eight-lane competition course similar to the national facility near Nottingham. At both its eastern and western ends. areas of Mesolithic occupation have been found, dating to the period between 10,000 and 6.000 years ago.

Neolithic activity from the succeeding period of the first farmers is indicated by a series of concentric ditches just beyond the western end of the

among the earliest defended sites in England. The remains lie outside the development area, and are not threatened

by it, however. A Bronze Age field system between four and three thousand years old lies just north of the lake and is only slightly affected, but another and much larger area of Bronze Age fields and enclosures. shown by cropmarks, and a Romano-British farmstead, will be almost obliterated.

The local planning authority refused permission for the development some years ago, partly because of the remains, but was overruled on appeal in a decision that called the rowing lake "a national asset". Although Etonians will swing together across the lake for generations to come, few will be aware of the generations past which lived there long before Henry VI put Eton on lake: these may be a the map in 1440.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

MUSICAL.

INSTRUMENTS

The spirit of the Lord God in the spirit of the Lord Da as upon me because the Lord has anointed me to give them garlands instead of ashes, oil of gladness instead of mourners' hears, a garment of spendour for the heavy heart. Mah 61 : 1, 3 (REB)

BULLARD - On December 21st. to Claire (née Astrovandes) and Richard. a daughter. Holly Catherina. DOVE - On 24th December 1995 at St. Mary's Hospital. Landon, to Chare (née Scott) and Andrew. a daughter. Florence Maimis. FOUCAR - To Sophia and Adam. on December 20th, a daughter. Octavia Desy. GLOVER - On December 28th

BIRTHS

daugitier, Octavia Datay.

61.0VER - On December 28th
1995, at Warrington Cameral
Hospital. To Sarah (née
Collier) and Alec. a son.
Thomas Andrew.
PARKER! - On 21st December
1995, to Penny (née Dyson)
and Raj. a daughter.
Constance Maya Alice. a sister for Theo.

SCOTT - On 30th December,
to Angus and Denise, a girl.
Katharize Elizabeth.

SOANES - On December
21st, to Camilla and Sandy, a
son, Mile Hugh William.

TALSOT-WILLIAMS - On
December 28th, to Lucinda
and Simon, a daugiter.

DEATHS

Robin) much loved hisband of Flona, father of Andrew and Catriena, brother of Durotty, Evelyn and Murray (Kerr). Service and buriel at St. Margaret's Church. Hornby, Lancaster at 15m cs. Friday 5th January. Family flowers only please. Donations. If wished, to PNII to Present ireland Lancaster.

CATOR - Group Captain
Francis Gerald Cator CBE
RAF (Refd). died pessethally
at Hollyfield, Kenl. on 30th
December 1998, apad 93.
Funeral Private. Enguiries to DEATHS DEATHS CAMPSELL Donald, Chartered Accountant beloved husband of the late Jessie. Late Company Secretary of the kirvati Oil Company and Executive of EP. Past Capitan of the Royal Tharses Yacht Cub formarity of Portincapie, Carelochead, Died on 28th December 1995 at Lyndoch Nursing Home, Bearsden Gissgow, Funeral Service at St. Columbus Church. Helensburgh on Thursday 4th January at 1.15pm. thereafter to Cardroes Crematorium arriving 2.15pm to which all friends are invited. CAMPSELL Donald

CAWLEY - Stephen, dearly loved husband. Eather and grandfather: peacefully at home on 29th December. Funeral at St Albam Church, Tilliord Road. Hundheld on Tuesday 9th January at 12 noon. No flowers, donations to Mencap. CHARLTON -Donald Geoffrey, formatly Professor of French of the University of Warwick, Died on 22nd Decamber 1995, aged 70

CHICK - Betty (nee Freefit)
died pescatulty on December
24 at Wintertrook Narating
Home. Much loved wife,
mother and grandmother.
Frameria at Harpeden Church
2.50cm. Fridey January 5.
Family flowers only,
donations. If winhed to
Henley Group Riding for the
Disabled. c/o Tomailm &
Str.

on December 29th aged 95 years peacefully at home. Widow of Li-Col Louis Cockers/I D.S.O., M.Y.O., Military Kulghi of Window and much loved mother of Louise, grandmother, grand-manner. Louise, grandmother, great-grandmother and nother-ha-lew. Fameral at St Georges Chapel. Windoor Castle at 12 nooth on Thursday 4th Jamusry followed by grivane cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Red Cross. c/o Sargeania & Son. 61 St Leonards Road, Windoor SL4 3832.

CORDY-ALLEN - Pear nged 54, peased stway at home on December 23rd 1995 after a long Ilmes. Loving brother a long Ilmes. Loving brother a for John and Pal and uncle to Christopher. Will be easily missed by all his relatives and friends. Funeral Service at pswich Crematorium. Cametery Lane. Ipswich. Suffolk in the West Chaptel on Friday January 5th at 12.30 pm. All will be made most welcome. Flowers may be sent, or 10 preferred docusions made psychle to The Terence Higgins Trust c/o Michael Sany Funeral Services, 18-20 St Matthews Street, howich. Suffolk. Tel: (01473) 213400. All floral tributes by 10 cm please.

FEATHERSTONE, WITTY - Philip Adolphus. On December 27th 1996 stier a short linese. Loving and dearly loved husband of Dephne and father of Jame Dorothy and Mark. Service of Thankspiving at St. Michael's Church. Chesico on Seturday 6th January 1996 et 2-30pe. Deneitons if desired to British Heart Foundations c/o Chesham Funeral Service. 161 Broad Street, Chesham, Bucks, 1976 SEF. Tei: (01494) 773 880

FOSTER - Mary Joyce, wife of the late Dr. Kenneth M. Foster, much loved mother, great-grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. After a long times hravely and cheerfully borne died peacefully on December 29th. Funeral service Thursday Janeury 4th, 11.30 am at 8t Mary's Systen, Nr Grantham. Family flowers celly. Donations to St. Mary's Systen.

GREINER - Grace Irene, R.I.P.
Died peacefully in her steep at Southend General Hospital on 21st December 1998 after a short filmens, aged 89 years.
Grace had a distinguished teaching curser in primary education and for more than 20 years at Goldsmith's College. University of London as Principal Lecturer in Education. Requiem Mass at Our Ledy of Lourdee Church, Leigh-on-See, Easet on 4th January 1996 at 10-2 and frends. Funeral Service at St. 2.45pm. Thereafter to Southend Cramatorium at 2.00m. No Bowers planse but bequests to The Royal Association in Aid of Deaf Peoche.

HARIESTON - Vernon, peacefully at home on Bouring Day aged 88, dearly leved hushand of Johapma. MARINGTON - Vernon, peacefully at home on Boxing Day aged 88, dearly loved husband of Johanna, adored father of Jans. Louiss and Susie and grandfather of Mary, Johnnie, Willy, Philip, Edwins and Sophie, Fuseral Service at 81 John the Baptist, Whithourne, on Priday 6th January at 11,30 am, Family Govern only, MUNTER - Betty (nie Mence) aged 72, of Twickenham, on Duomahar Sofa 1998, Most dearly loved wife and

December 30th 1995. Most dearly loved wife and cherished companion of Morley Hunter. Private cretation. No flowers by request. Donations if deared to the for Children of Stone Rows Brewer Solicitors. 46/76 Church Breet. Twickenham Twi 3NH.
JEFFERIES - Brigadier Richard Cament Paud Cal. Con December 27th 1995. peochylly et bome. near Lymington. Funeral at St. on December 27th 1995, pescerully at home. near Lymboton. Fumeral at St. Thomas' Lymboton. Fumeral for 1995 followed by private cramation. Family flowers. Densitions if desired to Royal Star and Garter Home. Richmond-upon-Thames. Richmond-upon-Thames. Richmond-upon-Thames. Lied peacefully on 26th December 1995 in Nica. Will be saffly missed by family and friends. Densitions in his bisency to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund.
LOWE - Geoffrey of Windlesham, Suffey. ded peatefully 21st December 1995 and 95 years. Funeral 11 am. 4th Lamuary at St John the Baptist Church. Windlesham.

Son. 12 Kassangton Cardens, Srighton. (01273) 603 806 PROWSE - Sarah Carletter Selven December 29th, after a brief fight against cancer which she bore with characteristic courage and great humour. Loved sheet of Pakey and the lake Jammy. Devoted sand of Sarah, Julia. Thomas, Charles, Ceile. Domait and Alison and greating to nine. A fercely loyal and irreplaceable friend. Enquiries to Abbey Functed Services, on (01732) 360328. A Messachtal Service will be held in Thurlestone in late March, date to be amoutood. No flowers please, but domaitions if desired to Hospice in the Westl. Alben Ourdiner House, Penshury Road. Tuthridge Wests Th2 3QU, whose team give her a wouderful quality of life to the very end.

the very end.

RICHARDS - On December 27th passarishy at the home of her daughter, Hermitone. Kethiene aged 57. Beloved wife of the late Iver Richards, much loved mother of Daphne. Diana. Hermitone and Ryen, a loving strandinother and great grandmother. Funeral Japuary 4th. Service at St. Marks Church. Newport. Gwent at 11.45cm. Family flowers only, exquiries to Tovey Stree. 5-11 Cardist Road, Newport. Tel: 01653 266849. SAMGSTER - Baby James, much loved and cherished son of Ben and Lucy, and brother to Eliza, saddenly but peacetudy in his steep at home at Manton.

SNARPEY-SCHAPER - (née Edgell), Elizabeth Beatrica "Belly", Most beloved wills of Michael and mother of Jame and Gluny, died 11th December - Puneral beld on 15th December - Donations if desired. to Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Granthasa, Lincs, NGS1 6LL. Grastham, Lines, NGS1 GLL

SMITH - Advisor Christopher
Stuart - At home, early on
Christians morning, Advisor
and devoted husband of
Barbara and hather of Stuart,
much loved son of Doris and
Sydney and brother of
Jamber and Linda, Advisor
was bern in feest, England in
1946. The funeral service
was held in Vancouver.
Canada on Friday, Docember
29th. A memorial service
was held in Vancouver.
Canada on Friday, Docember
29th. A memorial service
was held in Vancouver.
Canada on Friday, Docember
29th. A memorial service
was held in Vancouver.
Swill be held at S. Macryb
Church, Sundridge near
Sevenesia. Kent. England at
noon on Saturday 13th
January 1996. If desired, a
remembrance to the
Salvation Army, 611-198
West Hastings Sirvet.
Vancouver. B.C. Canada
VCS 112c or Palinative Care
Ward of Lieux Gair Hospida.
231 East 15th Street, North
Vancouver. B.C.. Canada
VT. 24.7. He will be greatly
retissed. ANNOUNCEMENTS FLATSHARE

SHAPE - Joyce Mary (nie Cathbertson) peacetaily on 15th December 1996 at The Witney Combension Hospital, aged 67. Loving and loved wife of Harry, mother of Ame and John. Posteral and cremation were held of The Oxford Crematorium on Tuesday 19th December 1996. If so desired donalises to be sent to The Antimal Refuge Sheller. Whethered Nr Carifide. Cambrie.

ITCHEY - Kandeen, on 21st December. Funeral Bournemouth East 12.30pm.
THOMSOW - Valerie (nee idiens) penceruity on 1st January 1996. Dearly beloved mother of Natalie and Cathy and Name of Anny. Lucy. Freedile and Polly. Family flowers only. Donations. If wished, to MacAstina Unit e/o Polly. Tomins (01386) 765133. Funeral Sarvice at St. James Badsey on 4th January at CHT'S

IN MEMORIAM --PRIVATE

TOURS CHEEZINA BRADON and school (18-4) age of Tel: 071-373 1668 FLATMATES Londap's forement (Sat 1970) Probastosel Bas sharing service 0.71-689 6691 LLDK S.W.1.1ct Slotters Mon-Pri fem erral Hope raw with phone Gassey 599 Inc.430 6637. FOR SALE

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OBITUARIES

Heiner Müller, dramatist, died of cancer on December 30 aged 66. He was born on January 9, 1929.

A DRAMATIST, director and poet, Heiner Müller was an outstanding challenger to the twin orthodoxies of Marxist and bourgeois theatrical and intellectual traditions in Germany. A hulk of a man whose trade marks were a fat, pungent cigar, unwashed straggling hair and thick speciacles, Müller was one of the great rulebreakers in a country obsessed by

Even before the fall of the Berlin Wall, and with many of his plays banned from the East German stage. he somehow managed to elicit from the authorities a pass enabling him to dine and drink with socialites and publishers in West Berlin and then return, swaying and perorating on the senselessness of history, across the silent guarded border in the middle of the night, back to his one room flat in the proletarian Hellersdorf high-rise district of East

A student of Bertolt Brecht's at the Berliner Ensemble in the 1950s, Müller turned his teacher's techniques against their originator. While every bit as harsh as Brecht in his critique of capitalism, he disagreed with the playwright's residual belief in communism as a more humane system and condemned his mentor's refusal

publicly to disavow Stalin.
Throughout Müller's writing runs an awareness of treachery repeating itself in great matters and small sroughout German history. He charted his own fascination with the phenomenon by describing how he feigned sleep as a four-year-old in 1933 when his father, a Social Democrat in Saxony, was hauled off to an internment camp by the Nazis. "That was my first treason," he later remarked. But his approach to power was always playful — he continued to live in the East which, in his hermetic

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HEINER MÜLLER



containment and delusionary aspects he found to be "like the Prussia of Kleist or the England of Shakespeare", and he even accepted the National Prize for Literature, despite the fact that many of the works for which it was granted were banned.

His work covers an extraordinary range of styles. His first play Der Lohndrücker (The Man Who Kept Down Wages) was a Brechtian meditation on forms of exploitation. based on the story of Hans Garbe, an East German Stakhanovite hero who risks his life to keep the factory furnaces going and meet the party's production targets. It was immediately taken off stage by the censor as politically inexpedient and not per-formed in the East until 1988.

The deconstruction of heroism was to be a persistant theme in Müller's oeuvre. By the early 1960s, he had departed from strict Brechtian theory and concentrated instead on the mythological treatments of history like Germania Tod in Berlin (Germania: Death in Berlin) which sought to place the 1953 workers' uprising in a pan-German context and restored the use of monologue to

the modern German stage.

The most intricate and famous of his plays was the 1977

Hamletmaschine (Hamlet Machine), one of only a few of his works performed in Britain. It interweaves Shakespeare with exegeses on Baader-Meinhol terrorism, the murder of Sharon Tate and the ouelling of the Hungarian uprising, Intended to be performed alongside Mulicr's translation of Hamlet, the play caused a legal battle when Michael Hamburger, Germany's foremost modern Shakespeare translator, claimed that Müller had plagiarised his work. Müller won his case when his lawyer Gregor Gysi (now a post-Communist politician) managed to convince the court that his client was genius enough to have translated the work from scratch in two months.

The last production of the play at the Deutsches Theater in East Berlin in 1989 lasted nine hours and was playing when the Berlin Wall fell. Müller rewrote sections of it nightly to reflect events happening a few streets away.

After the collapse of the regime, it was revealed that Müller had periodically provided information to the Stasi secret police. Unperturbed at the public scandal which ensued, he claimed to have done it "for reasons of dramaturgy - to get inside the minds of the main actors in our state". Callow as this evocation of the post-modernist get-out clause sounds, it was given a certain credibility when it emerged that the Stasi had deemed his statements "without analytical value", being unable to understand their informant's hand-writing, syntax or

stream of consciousness.

Although Müller's plays were too abstruse to be widely known, his ideas were accessible to a wider public through his secondary, post-1989 career as enfant terrible, called in by mischievous chat-show producers to deflate the great and good and their hopes for the new united Germany. On the first anniversary of German unity he surpassed himself in both bad behaviour and theatrical

deconstruction of the television medium by sitting alongside ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and other worthies on a podium for the best part of an hour; he said nothing, drinking noisily from a bottle of Scotch and uttering not a word. "Please", implored the host, "tell us what you think about history." What intellectuals call history has never been more than hard work to the lower orders", replied Müller tartly. The only national identity in Germany is the mark", was another of his bon more to gain national popularity. As head of the eastern branch of the German Academy of Arts, he was a robust defender of writers whom he believed had been unfairly condemned by their Western counterparts.

Diagnosed as suffering from ter-minal cancer in 1991, Müller had part of his oesophagus removed but continued to work, drink and smoke with gusto. His final production Zement (Cement) was a masterful reworking of Soviet revolutionary drama in the manner of classical drama. Staged in a condemned factory in the dying industrial zone of eastern Berlin, it was accessible only with great effort, the auditorium was freezing cold and the audience had to be supplied with vodka and blankets to prevent hypothermia. By turns bizarre, confusing and touching, i was Müller's characteristic farewell

to German audiences. The last three years of his life were spent back at the Berliner Ensemble where the ailing company had called in a "five-pack" of Germany's top directors to restore its fortunes. Müller was given full control last year after a bitter power-struggle with Peter Zadek, the west German director, who disapproved of his concentration on violent themes. His autobiography War Without Battle was published in 1992.

Müller was married three times He is survived by his third wife, Brigitte Mayer, and their son.

LORD **COLLISON**

Lord Collison, CBE, former General Secretary of the National Union of Agricultural Workers and chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, 1969-75, died on December 29 aged 86. He was born on May 10.

HAROLD COLLISON was an old-style trade unjonist who had an increasing impact on Labour politics through his long, 17-year service on the TUC General Council, For 12 years he was chairman of its social insurance and industrial welfare committee and as such, caught the eye of Richard Crossman who at the time was deeply involved with his 1957 national superannuation plan. More than a decade later it

fell to Crossman, as Secretary of State for Social Services, to offer him the post of chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission (the old National Assistance Board). Typically described by his patron as "a great, big, tall, gangling man, a real slow working-class chap". Collison was, in fact, a good deal more impressive than that. Created a life peer by Harold Wilson in December 1964, he had earlier that year been elected chairman of the TUC and, as a Labour peer, presided over the 1965 Brighton Congress - the first member of the House of Lords

ever to do so. The National Union of Agricultural Workers had always been part of the Labour leadership's Praetonan Guard and, though never one of the major unions, was regularly represented on the party's National Executive Committee. its strength lay among the farm workers of East Anglia, where in the 1950s it usually got a couple of its members

returned to Parliament.

Harold Francis Collison. however, did not come from there but from Gloucestershire - though he started his career as a clerk in a Port of London stevedoring firm. But he soon gave that up and moved back to Gloucestershire where he got a job first as a general farm hand before switching to working on a

poultry farm. He helped to form the Stroud and District branch of the NUAW, later becoming organiser for the counties of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. In 1946 he joined the head office staff in London. being elected General Secretary in 1953 - at a time when the union still had very much in its sights the abolition of the tied cottage" system (something it had failed to obtain even from Aneurin Bevan during his time in charge of the Attlee Government's hous-

ng programme). it was, however, a great source of pride to Collison that



he lived long enough to see farm workers afforded protection for their homes — even when they lost their jobs — under the 1977 Agricultural Rent Act.

By then, of course, he qualified very much as an elder statesman - having survived four years of serving a Tory Government as chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission between 1970 and 1974. In fact, Collison got on well with Crossman's successor. Sir Keith Joseph. and when he did finally retire in 1975, it was to a Labour Social Services Secretary, Barbara Castle, that he tendered his resignation. Free of the responsibilities of the Commission, he was able to devote himself much more fully to the business of the House of Lords where he formed a useful duo on agricultural issues with Lord John-Mackie, the wealthy farmer and Labour supporter whom James Callaghan appointed chairman of the Forestry Commission. Collison was a very popular member of the Upper House and, at least until ill-health overtook him, an assiduous attender.

always been a ready-made recruit to the stage army of the great and the good. Even in his days as a union general secretary he was a natural choice for membership of government committees and royal commissions — serving on the Pilkington Committee on Broadcasting which came down heavily against ITV in 1962, the Donovan Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations whose recommendations predated the 1969 White Paper In Place of Strife and of the rolling Council on Tribunals, which gave him as useful an apprenticeship as he could have had for his later work with the Supplementary Benefits Commission. It was in recognition of these activities that he was appointed CBE by

But then, in a sense, he had

a Tory Government in 1961. Collison married in 1946 Kate Hanks who survives him. There were no children.

JAMES HEPBURN



James Hepburn, DFC, tap dancer and airman. died on December 15 aged 88. He was born on November 3, 1907.

WITTY and debonair but a stout believer in Labour principles, James Geoffrey Cutliffe Hepburn was a central figure in Hampstead's social and socialist scene. From an early age he moved in bohemian circles, acquainted through his mother, the poet Anna Wickham, with such literary and artistic figures as D. H. Lawrence, Edith Sitwell. David Bomberg and Malcolm Lowry - he was to remain a lifelong friend of the

His mother was equally at home in a political environment and a solid supporter of the suffragist movement. One of Hepburn's earliest memories was of a garden party when he and two other small boys paraded the lawns, each holding a placard. The first read "votes", the second "for" is and the third "women".

Hepburn's mother was a fiercely unconventional woman. Her husband, Patrick Hepburn was a lawyer, though in his spare time he studied the planet Saturn on which he became a world authority and learnt Hebrew in order to translate the Psalms. In 1919 the family moved to a tall Victorian House on Parliament Hill - a spacious, four-storey building in which the bathroom doubled up as an aviary and the windows looked out over Hampstead Heath.

Anna Wickham, however. could never squeeze herself into the role of model housewife which her husband expected of her and, when her youngest son died of scarlet fever, she left her husband for six months and went to Paris taking her teenage son Jim with her. Here, in salon society, he further widened his acquaintance, meeting such figures as Ezra Pound, Sylvia Beach. Diuna Barnes and Nina Hamnett. The portrait which the latter painted of him shows the thoughtful face of the suave young man who at that time played chess with Aleister Crowley and beat him, and coolly accepted the fact that men should fight

duels over his mother. Hepburn was educated at University College School, Hampstead, but left at the age of 17 to work for the London, Midland and Scottish railway company. He had a stammer, and in the evenings his mother taught him to sing in an attempt to cure it; he also attended a nearby drama school. It was by chance that Hepburn then stumbled into a profession, becoming a repertory actor and singing for a year with Stanley Holloway in

Hit the Deck. His mother's friend Augustus John then introduced him to the impresario C. B. Cochran and Hepburn was invited to accompany Noël Coward as his understudy in the American tour of This Year of Grace.

In New York Hepburn studied tap dancing. Fred Astaire had developed new tap routines, using not just snappy foot rhythms but fast balletic movements as well. It was this method of dancing which Hepburn was to adopt and take back with him to England where he taught them to his younger brother John Together they made a double act, called first the Two Madisons and later the Hepburn Broth-

Together they travelled the theatres of England and the Continent, happy to dance at any venue, however lowly. On their last appearance they

were bottom of the bill, while Vera Lynn was at the top.

When war broke out Hepburn joined the RAF. He had always been fascinated by aircraft and, as a child playing with a typewriter for the first time, had made his own magazine about aeroplanes. He served first as a tailgunner but, perhaps inheriting something of his father's interest in astronomy, became a navigator. Flying seemed to come naturally to him and once, out with 216 Squadron in North Africa, he successfully made a forced landing in the middle of a desert sandstorm. In 1943 he was awarded the DFC. In 1948 Hepburn left the

RAF to form a company called Eagle Aviation, pioneering the idea of freight aviation. He operated throughout the Berlin airlift, flying 28 round trips in ten days. He also became only the second man ever to fly around the world from east to west. But having married in 1950 Hepburn decided that family life was incompatible with operational flying. He joined the RAF again as an air traffic controller and stayed in this role from 1951 until 1960.

In the 1960s Hepburn joined the Civil Service, working for the Ministry of Defence. The nature of his job remained a closely guarded secret. Even his wife, familiar with government operations at Bletchley Park, did not know precisely what he did, though speculation was that he was involved in nuclear operations.

On retiring in 1977, Hepburn, with characteristic energy and commitment to democratic principle took a ioh in Heal's bedding factory and joined the Hampstead Labour Party. He also became an enthusiastic private brewer of beer, swilling down his pints to denunciations of the big breweries. He remained all his life a man of modest ambition, though his last wish, he used to say, was not to

die under a Tory government He is survived by his wife Margaret, by a daughter, two stepdaughters - and his brother John with whom he

used to dance.

CHARLES FLETCHER

Charles Fletcher, CBE. **Professor of Clinical** Epidemiology, London University, 1973-76, died on December 5 aged 84. He was born on June 5.

CHARLES FLETCHER was best known to the public as a pioneer in the use of television as a means of medical education. In 1949, when he first suggested that doctors should explain to patients the causes of their illnesses, he stirred up a storm of protest among conservative medical circles. But Fletcher continued to campaign and in 1958, under his aegis, the BBC began a series of television programmes entitled Your Life In Their Hands, which included footage of operations. In its leading articles. The British Medical Journal attacked this series vituperatively for several weeks in succession, arguing that giving patients information about disease was harm-

ful and could lead to abuse. It was a brave step that Fletcher took, and the ethical problems involved were complex, but he - a man of proven principle, with a sound medical knowledge, a pleasing onscreen personality and an attractive voice - succeeded where many others might have failed. Your Life in Their Hands was one of the most successful medical programmes ever produced and

Fletcher continued to be medi-

cal adviser to the BBC from 1961 to 1972. Charles Montague Fletcher had been innovative throughout his life. Having studied medicine at Trinity College. Cambridge - where he took first-class honours in both Part I and Part II of the Tripos - he worked as a Nuffield Research Fellow under Professor Leslie Witts at Oxford, It was here that he was to become the first doctor to administer penicillin to a hu-

man being. Fletcher also pioneered the development of quantification of the chest radiographic appearances of the miners' disease, pneumoconiosis. After leaving Oxford, he went to



Cardiff as the director of the Pneumoconiosis Unit. It was here that he became aware of 'observer error" — the widely different interpretation of the same chest radiograph by different observers - and, in order to introduce bener standardisation, he designed a semi-quantitive scoring system flater to be extended by his colleague John Gilson) which

is now accepted worldwide. It was while in Cardifi that Fletcher became interested in the effects of inhaled particles on the lung and the natural history of chest disease and perhaps more importantly, it was here that he found his commitment to epidemiology (at a time when this method ology was barely accepted by the academic medical fraternity) in order to study disease before the symptoms surfaced. His observations on miners contributed in a major way to the successful prevention of

In recognition of this work he was appointed CBE in 1952. Fletcher, however, longed for more direct clinical involvement in his research, and in 1952 he joined the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at the Hammersmith Hospital. Tuberculosis had just been conquered by the development of antituberculosis chemotherapy, so Fletcher turned his

mind to the other most com-

this form of pneumoconiosis.

mon chest diseases - chronic bronchitis and emphysema. He developed various new epidemiological methods, including the study of early disease in prospective cases. and spent the next twenty years of his life unravelling the natural history of these afflictions.

Working with a number of other eminent scientists. Fletcher demonstrated conclusively the direct relationship between eigarette smoking and chronic bronchitis and emphysema and it was he who was largely responsible for drafting the first and the second Royal College of Physicians reports in 1902 and 1971 to alert the public to the hazards of smoking.

Fletcher was a founder

member of Action on Smoking and Health and ardently campaigned against smoking. He himself had learnt to knit during the war and recommended knitting as an occupation for those who found it hard to give up cigarettes. Each of his grandchildren had a jersey made by him. In retirement he also learnt to do tapestry and he enjoyed keeping bees in the small orchard where he lived on the Isle of Wight, and making his own bread, wine and beer.

He is survived by his wife Louisa, and their three

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Church news

Appointments The Rev Mary Judson, Assis-R tant Curate. Chester-le-Street: to be Priest-in-charge, Bishopwearmouth St Mark, Millfield

(Durham). The Rev Paul Langham, Chaolain and Fellow, St Catharine's College. Cambridge: to be Vicar, Combe Down w Monkton Combe and South Stoke (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Pat Lawless, Curate (NSM), Christ Church. Frome: to be Curate (NSM), Mells w Vobster w Buckland Dinham, Elm, Whatley and Chantry (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Rob Marshall: formerly Communications Officer for the diocese of London: to be media adviser (part-time) to the Archbishop of York. The Rev Dr Charles Miller, Priest-in-charge, New Marston (Oxford): has been ap-

pointed the Michael and Joan Ramsey Professor of Historical and Ascetical Theology, Nashotah House, Wisconsin, diocese Milwaukee, USA.

The Rev Mark Millward, Vicar, Pennywell St Thomas w Grindon St Oswald: to be whole-time Church of England Chaplain to the City Hospitals, Sunderland (NHS

Trust) (Durham). The Rev Mark Oakley, Assistant Curate at St John's Wood: to be Chaplain to the Bishop of

London (London). The Rev Kevin Partington. Curate, All Saints. Salterhebble, Halifax: to be Vîcar, All Saints. Pontefract

(Wakefield). The Rev Philip Swindells, Rector. Clophill: to be also Priest-in-charge. Shillington (St Albans).

C. DAY LEWIS IS POET LAUREATÉ

By RITA MARSHALL

Mr. Cecil Day Lewis, aged 63 a former

Professor of Poetry at Oxford University, was
named last night as Poet Laureate. He succeeds

Mr. John Masefield who died last May.

Mr. John Massfield who died last May.

An announcement from 10 Downing Street reorded the Queen's approval of Mr. Day Lewis's appointment as "Poet Laureate in ordinary to her Majesty". The purchas been a regular institution in England since the seventeenth century, and previous Poet Laureates include Wordsworth. Southey, and Tennyson.

At his home in Greenwich, last night, Mr. Day Laure decorded his monointment as "midistrate". Lewis described his appointment as "exhilarat-ing". He added: "But honestly I know absolutely

ng about what this post means Today. Mr. Day Lewis, who has known unofficially of his appointment for a fortright, will go to the library to get Kenneth Hopkins's book on Poet Laurentes. He said: "I haven't dared no melli his man melli his melli his

go until this was official.

I think I get paid something, but not very much. Anyway perhaps it will be enough to keep me in bourbon whisky for a day or two." In fact. the Poet Laureate receives £70 a year, plus £27 "in

Mr. Day Lewis continued: "Being Poet Laureare is considered by some an accolade, by others the kiss of death. I can't cay I'm anything but "I don't think today one has court poetry as in the eighteenth century. If something is very

ON THIS DAY

January 2, 1968

Cecil Day Lewis (1904-72) was the oldest of the trio. Auden, Spender and Day Lewis - the writers of the "new poetry" in the early 30s. He achieved a second reputation, under the mendanym of Nicholas Blake, as a writer of

detective stories of considerable ment. moving, something like Aberlan or perhaps the day when Prince Charles becomes Prince of

Wales, there might be an opportunity or a desire to produce a poem on such a theme. Personally I shall just go on writing poetry, that's what a poet should do." He has already written in celebration of one

royal event. To commemorate the birth of Prince andrew in 1960 he wrote an ode which was set to music by Sir Arthur Bliss and which ended with

You princely baby, you pretty dear, For you we bring The birthday honours of the quickening year. Mr Day Lewis did not know he was being considered for the appointment until he had a letter from the Prime Minister on December 14 asking if his name could be put forward. He replied that he would be delighted.

children.

"I was out when the next letter came from No 10 saying that I had been chosen," Mr Day Lewissaid. "It meant a lot of family giggling over Christmas. My children—Tamasin, she's 14, and Daniel, who is 10—have been teasing

By STEPHEN JESSEL Cecil Day Lewis, whose appointme Laurence in succession to the late John Masefield was announced last night, was once described by The Times Literary Supplement as "the person-ally favoured poet, the specially delighted-in poet. of the few; but even readers whose immediate response to him is rather hesitant do, in all likelihood, feel for him something more than a

lacks the charisma that Yeats, Graves and Auden have displayed and that his standpoint and personality are not so clearly defined in the public mind that what he says commands instant and

respectful public attention.

But his poetic skill, his sincerity, instruct, and ract have rarely been questioned, and his poetry often displays, in the view of many critics, a sharpness and compassion that recall the "committed" days of the 1930s and the money for-

مكنامن الأصل

NEWS

Tory infighting over defection

Tory party infighting escalated as leading figures traded insults over Emma Nicholson's defection to the Liberal Democrats. Michael Portillo accused Miss Nicholson of talking awful nonsense in claiming that her departure was precipitated by a lurch to the Right.

He hinted that other Centre-Left Tories should follow her example if they wanted a federal Europe. John Redwood said that far from being too rightwing, the Conservatives were not rightwing enough ...

Black Watch linked with Triads

■ British troops from the Black Watch infantry regiment said to have sworn a blood oath of allegiance to a Chinese secret society are to get immunity from prosecution in Hong Kong in exchange for information on Triad crime gangsPage 1

Harsh sentences

The new Bar chairman launched a blistering attack on Michael Howard's plans for minimum ...Page l

Water torture

Millions of homes were without water as the thaw revealed burst pipes and mains Page I Royal family values

Members of the Royal Family cut

back their overseas visits by a third last year, devoting more time to work in Britain in the face of criticism at home.... ...Page 1 Saudi handover

King Fahd handed over the running of Saudi Arabia to his halfbrother. Crown Prince Abdullah. saying he needed to rest after suffering a stroke......Pages 1.8

Thai search

Johanne Masheder, a 23-year-old British solicitor, has vanished while back-packing in Thailand. Police are appealing to returning holidaymakers for infor-... Pages 1, 3

Uister rebuff

Sir Patrick Mayhew told Ulster Unionists not to expect any deals for promising not to bring down the Government... ...Page 2

Gene genius

Scientists have identified the gene that makes some people extrovert and eager for new experiences. and others introverted Page 3

Samaritan killed

A passer-by who tried to stop a mugging was shot dead and two of his friends injured by a gang in St Paul's. BristolPage 3

Teaching division

People in the Isles of Scilly are split over plans to merge the primary and secondary schools on St Mary's to form Britain's first all-through state school Page 4

Chips are down

Egon Ronay attacked food at Charles de Gaulle airport as fit only for people with damaged palates, giving it nought out of ten for chips. Schiphol served "food for masochists", but Heathrow's fare was excellent.....Page 4

Deadly rendezvous

Three drug dealers found shot dead in a Range Rover last month trusted their killer so implicitly that they took no weapons to a socalled business meeting in an Essex country lane

Au revoir, La Beeb

The BBC's French language service, which sustained France during the Second World War and was affectionately known as La Beeb, was silent for the first timePage 6 in 58 years ...

Hong Kong hope

China's top official for Hong Kong affairs called for a new dawn in Sino-British relations in the 18 months before the colony reverts to ChinaPage 9

Bloodhound wins at hunt the slipper

When Nick Harrison took off his shoes, Angus the bloodhound went to fetch his slippers. But instead of picking up his new fur-lined tartan pair, the dogged dog embarked on a five-mile round trip, returning an hour later with his master's old pair, which had been discarded in a rubbish bin on an industrial estate in Swinnow, West Yorkshire...



Luciano Pavarotti giving an impromptu lesson to young choristers who welcomed him to Cape Town

BUSINESS

Warren's fight: The Department of Trade is to start disqualification proceedings against the boxing promoter Frank Warren after a four-year inquiry linked to the London Arena entertainment centre. ...Page 36

New look: Tom Singh has sold New Look, his family-run fashion business, to institutional investors for £170 millionPage 36 Lack of confidence: Business con-

fidence is at its lowest ebb since 1992, according to a survey of 2,000 companies carried out by Lloyds .Page 33

Pensions up: UK pension funds enjoyed a vintage year in 1995, with annual returns of 19 per cent after a poor showing in the previous 12 months...Page 33

EATURES

A-Z of cosmetic surgery: Sagging jawline, baggy eyes, flabby breasts? Dr Thomas Stuttaford on how medical science can achieve a new, improved you...... Page 12 Fat chance: Why do we eat more when the festive table is laden with

we are greedy......Page 13 Spice of life: Quentin Letts discovers how Madhur Jaffrey blends her work as a cook with her other role as an actress. .Page 13

food? Not because we are hungry,

says Nigella Lawson, but because

THE LAW Counselling counsel: Why lawyers

in traumatic trials, such as the Rosemary West case, should be offered help to cope with thePage 29

TOWORROW

IN THE TIMES

fashion designers and

editors tell you what

you'll want to wear

Sharon Stone (right)

attractions, previewed

by The Times critics

SHOWTIME

and other coming

■ FASHION

The look of 1996:

Reluctant hero: The actor Morgan Freeman cannot get the Hollywood

roles he wants - and all because he

would rather play a bad guy than a good guyPage IO ignoring history: The Tate Gallery's exhibition Picturing Blackness looks at how black people in Britain have been portrayed over the ages.

Preaching survival: The disappearance of Richey James threw the Manic Street Preachers into months of uncertainty, but their Wembley gig proves they still have

a future... _ Page li Consort in concert: The Wigmore Hall audience welcomed in the new year with a programme of 17thcentury baroque music by the King's Consort ...

record-breaking performance to lift Indianapolis Colts to victory over San Diego Chargers Page 24 Racing: Horseracing got back on course at Exeter after ten days of frost and snow, but the last two of the seven races were abandoned because of fog

Footbalk Liverpool kept up their

Premiership challenge with a re-

markable 42 win over Nottingham

Forest They trailed 2-0 after 18

Angus Fraser in their attempt to

clinch the Test series against South

Africa in Cape Town_Pages 19, 21

Rugby league: Wigan scored a

runaway 41-12 victory over War-

rington in the Stones Champion-

ship and require one more point

from their last three games to se-

Golf: Barry Lane of England

picked up a cheque for £660,000.

the higgest of his career, when he

beat the South African David Frost

in the World Championship at

American football: Zack Crockett, a

stand-in running back, produced a

_Page 19

... Page 24

comeback ...

care the title

Scottsdale, Arizona...

The progress of peace in 1995 con-

conflicts are amenable to energetic diplomacy. May 1996 be as encour-—The New York Times | 1995.

TVUSTRIGS

Preview: Adam Hart-Davis un earths the often unsung pioneers o science and invention Local Herne (BBC2, 7.30pm) Review: Matthey Bond on a Ruth Rendell thrile than fails to convince......... Page 3:

OPINONS

Princely problems

The West should not be surprised i the Crown Prince draws back from his brother's close dependence or the West. What matters is not tha Saudis copy Western ways and pol . icies; the country's strategic importance depends more on stability continuity and adaptation to it international role Page I

Emma and the Liberals

Now and again the Lib Dent would win a by-election but their successes were always overshad owed by Tony Blair. This year however, has begun with a dazzling firework display. Emma Nichol son's defection lends credibility to : party that had been all but eclipser by New Labour

Panto Bruno

For Demon Promoter don't gir two hoots: We believe in mystic moggy

minutes, but staged a thrilling We love Frank and Frank loves us This year at last he'll catch the Cricket: England gamble on the Page !! fast bowlers Devon Malcolm and

COLUMNS LIBBY PURVES

Of course there are parallels be tween urban poverty and the rura: kind. A nice view does not neutralise debt and despair, nor prevent you being old and cold, young and hopeless, or afraid of your violent husband....

MAGNUS LINKLATER

No one is quite sure how the tradition of "the Ba" began, but it mus be one of the most ancient as wel as most ferocious new year sports in Britain, dating back possibly to the struggles for power between the Earls and Bishops of Orkney in the 12th century.....

OBITIMARIES

Heiner Müller, German playwright; Lord Collinson, union official: Charles Fletcher, epidemiologist: James Hepburn, taç

EU fishing quotas; future of Com monwealth Institute; royal duties

Overcast

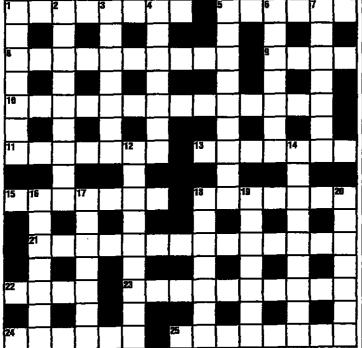
sunny showers

Temperature (Celsius)

(mph) & direction

PLightning

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,053



ACROSS

- I Literary club chairman's quick rhymes (8).
- 5 As self-effacing as Mussorgsky (b). 8 Article one put in place for promotion of public health (10).
- 9 Tarry rope? (4). 10 Light garnish for enhancement of
- presentation (6-8). 11 Reading about it in actual case (7). 13 Instrument has a key missing -
- send off for a new one (7). 15 Servings of fifty-cent chops (7).
- 18 Pry curiously at the centre of
- ancient monument (7). 21 Locating organ, perhaps, round
- East of one church (14). 22 Route leading to palace - mass on both sides (4).
- 23 Stargazing after midnight, with special interest in tables? (10).
- Solution to Puzzie No 20,052

- 24 Possible answer to "Who's that becoming fellow?" (6). 25 One who delivers launch to river
- I Following the international sec-
- ond row, for example? (7). 2 Authoritative priest in charge of a
- number of Romans (9). 3 Not having jester to enthrall you
- in the past (7). 4 Peculiar dialect used in Cronin
- novel (7). 5 Control binding on religious
- establishment (9). 6 Collected documentation from va-
- grant I admitted (7). 7 Sequin seamstress put initially on
- elbow (7). 12 Vegetable in a health centre replaced sugar (9).
- 14 Party agents who are servile in the provinces (9).
- 16 Fruit-growing area we see daily inside ring-road (7). 17 An oil distributed between ends of
- Lincoln? (7). 18 Foolish talk from party leader put
- off stride (7). 19 Rootstock giving him zero production (7).
- 20 One who holds back and does, for example, without position (7).
 - Times Two Crossword, page 36

TIMES WEATHERCALL For the latest region by region lorecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate

Cools:
Greater London
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Dorsel, Hanits & IOW
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Wits, Gloucs, Avon, Sorns
Berts, Bucks, Oxon
Berts, Bucks, Oxon
Berts, Bucks, Cambis
Weet Mich & Stir Gambis
Weet Mich & Stir Gambis Dyled & Powys Gwynedd & Clwyd N W England W & S Yorks & Dales

W B England
Cumlona & Lake District
S W Scotland
W Cengral Scotland
Edin S Frie/Lothian & Borders... Grampian & E Hightends......

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

General: England and Wales will be rather grey and misty, with fog patches and a little drizzle.

during the atternoon, when the west side of the country could see a touch of brightness Scotland and Northern Ireland will also start off cloudy and grey, with a little drizzle, perhaps still

There will be a small improvement

wintry in the far north. During the afternoon, it will become drier and bright apart from in eastern Scotland. ☐ London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Mid-lands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Cen-tral N England, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Ar-gyli, N Ireland: cloudy, misty with tog patches and the odd spot of

drizzle. Wind light and variable. Max 6C (43F).

☐ E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: cloudy with drizzle and mist or fog patches. Wind gentle southeast. Max 5C (41F).

☐ Channel Isles, SW England, S

Wales: cloudy and dry, some brighter spells. Wind moderate southerly, Mild. Max 10C (50F). ☐ Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW

Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy, outbreaks of rain or sleet dying out. Wind moderate to fresh, south to southeast. Rather cold, Max 4C (39F). ☐ Outlook: tomorrow will be generally dry and cloudy. Rain in the

AROUNG BRITAIN TESTERDAY 10.0 30.0

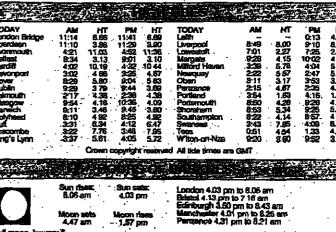
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Changes to the chart below from noon: high S will remain slow-moving nea Spain, as low V fills and continues east. Lows Q and W will amalgar remain slow-moving off the southeast tip of Greenland





10.13.4